



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Ukraine Approved as CIS Treaty Associate

LD0103175194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412
GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin reported to INTERFAX that the session of CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee (CCC) underway on Tuesday in Moscow approved the draft agreement on Ukraine's joining the Treaty on Economic Union of CIS countries as an associate member.

Shokhin, who chaired the session, said the problems related to Kiev's joining of the economic union are largely caused by the political situation in this republic, in particular, by the fact that a new parliament would apparently ratify a corresponding agreement. To this effect the minister reminded that based on CIS documents already ratified by Kiev, at the Commonwealth's forums, Ukraine enjoys the right of a decisive and in several cases of a consultative vote.

As Shokhin asserted, Kiev "has no reserved special positions on articles of the treaty on economic union." "Ukraine's peculiar feature is that it is closer to plenipotentiary than to a classic associate membership in the economic union," stressed the minister. He added that the CCC had proposed a general variant of the draft agreement on associate membership with respect to Ukraine.

Ivan Korotchenya, CIS executive secretary, made it clear during his conversation with our INTERFAX correspondent that a common principal accord was voiced on the issue of Ukraine's associate membership in the economic union at the CCC session. However, experts have been charged with also developing a text of an appropriate document. Korotchenya explained that due to the fact that Kiev had not signed the CIS Charter and the Treaty on Economic Union, because Ukraine had expressed its discontent with several of the Treaty's provisions, there appear certain difficulties and contradictions due to the preparation of an agreement on associate membership of this republic in the economic union.

Korotchenya added that "there is not a single completely prepared document among those approved at the CCC session Tuesday, all of them are to be revised by experts." Korotchenya reported that majority of CCC members are in favor of a joint conference on March 31 in Moscow instead of two separate sessions, namely of the Council of heads of governments and Council of heads of states.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Mar

LD0303070594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532
GMT 2 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 3 (ITAR-TASS)—Under the headline "What Will the Prime Minister Offer?", today's

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper forecasts a scenario of an upcoming government meeting.

In the newspaper's opinion, Viktor Chernomyrdin "will possibly submit to the meeting mechanisms for implementing ideas outlined in the recent state of the nation message by President Boris Yeltsin to the Russian parliament".

The same newspaper quotes opinions expressed by two members of the presidential council—full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Andrey Zhukov and politologist Leonid Smirnyagin concerning priority tasks facing the Russian Government.

Zhukov calls on the cabinet "to concentrate on the economy and ignore political discussions", while Smirnyagin calls for ending "a war between regions and the centre for rights which have already been granted to them".

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper carries a monthly rating of 100 leading Russian politicians in February, based on polls carried by the public opinion agency "VP" together with the newspaper. The latest poll shows that the Russian president yielded the first place to his Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The same newspaper also devotes its commentary to the Russian cabinet head. The newspaper expresses ideas on the role played by the present premier in pursuing the course of reforms and economic changes in the country.

In the newspaper's opinion, the present "pre-reform economy is in the premier's 'charge', while Chernomyrdin, the newspaper notes, "is born for a situation when Russia gets a respite before an advent of a new, and luckier than Gaydar, economic reformer".

Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the lower chamber committee on economic policy, analyses in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA "compatibility" of the positions of the president and parliament after the recent message by Yeltsin to legislators.

In his opinion, "Russia's deindustrialisation is now an established fact". Nevertheless, "virtually all theses of the presidential message coincide with the recommendations of parliamentary hearings on economic policy".

The press points with concern to a rash of strikes in Russia over the past few days. The newspapers SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, TRUD and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI write about "a wave of strikes" that swept the country.

In this connection, TRUD says the following: "The government's numerous promises to tackle social and economic problems of coal-mining regions have not been fulfilled. This provoked a new phase of tension at mines.

"A pre-strike situation is observed at many enterprises. Steelmen, textile workers and personnel at defence and light industry factories have set up striking committees."

The PRAVDA newspaper features an interview with former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov

who recently left the Lefortovo Prison in Moscow after the amnesty declared by the lower house of the Russian parliament.

He stressed that he "reserves the right to tell truth to people how the former Russian parliament worked and how we defended principles of democracy and parliamentarism, as well as to tell truth what really happened during the tragic days of September- October 1993".

No 'Sensation' Over British Spy Case

LD0203154494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow will not cause a sensation due to the arrest, by the Federal Counterintelligence Service, of a Russian citizen working for the British special services, a high-ranking Russian diplomat specializing in Russian-British relations told Interfax.

He said the arrest of the spy must not hamper the partnership between Moscow and London. "Contrary to Americans, who are fretting due to the Ames case we do not make a tragedy of what has happened. The British special service is collecting material on Russia, it is natural. It is not natural to take the stand of "offended innocence" as the U.S. did in the Ames case," the diplomat stressed.

He emphasized that intelligence and counterintelligence were inalienable parts of any state. They have existed and will exist as long as the state itself exists. At the same time, there must be civilized ways to react to the arrest of a spy working for the other state. This reaction, in fact, tests the true character of the bilateral relations, the diplomat said.

Damage 'Could Hardly Be Calculated'

LD0203154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A senior official in the Russian defense industry who spied for Britain and was detained by the Federal Counterintelligence Service, was an agent of the caliber of Penkovskiy or Tolkachev, who had spied for the West in 1960s. An informed source in the Service told Interfax Wednesday that the damage done by that agent could hardly be calculated.

According to the FCIS, the spy kept the British services informed on the latest Russian weapons, financing of defense research and development and Russia's defense technology cooperation with other countries.

The source said that the report, made public on March 1, about the arrest of a Russian citizen who spied for Britain had nothing to do with the Ames case in the U.S. he added that unlike the Ames case whose cooperation with Russian special services had yet to be proven, the Russian citizen had been caught in the act (he carried spying equipment and manuals on using caches—JF) and admitted his guilt.

The source said that the Western spying services had stepped up their activities in Russia. In 1993 alone 20 people were convicted for spying. Colonel Baranov of the Intelligence Main Office of the General Staff was convicted on February 19.

The FCIS official said that the West was trying to pressure certain political figures in Russia to impose

another reshuffling of the Russian intelligence and counterintelligence services, thus attempting to paralyze them.

FCS Official Comments

MK0303085094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
3 Mar 94 p 1

[Vladimir Sedykh report under the "Scandal" rubric: "Spies Without Number"]

[Text] The discovery and arrest of a high-ranking employee of one of the Moscow agencies of the Russian defense complex recruited last year by the British intelligence service once more confirms that active work by Western special services against Russia is being done.

Commenting on this case, Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] public relations center, has stated in a KURANTY interview that when foreign special services are acting in Russia in an extremely brazen and pushy manner, it is very important for our law and order organs not to relax, and put the adversary in his place. He underlined that the FCS would resolutely cut short such anti-Russia activity. "When we are given the possibility to do our professional business, concrete results have appeared." In 1993, 20 citizens of Russia were indicted for high treason in the form of spying, including Baranov, a Main Intelligence Directorate officer, who was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Asked if he could give the agent's name, Mikhaylov said it was not known to him; however, he revealed the nature of his work. The English agent was in particular in charge of financing the Russian "defense industry" [oboronka] and his organization's export activities, and the military-industrial complex's high-tech programs. According to the FCS spokesman, this disclosure is in no way connected with the Ames case.

[Sedykh] Would this be further followed up by an expulsion from the country of an English spy?

[Mikhaylov] This decision will be made by the top political leadership. Quite possibly, a rather high-ranking member of Great Britain's embassy in Moscow will have to leave Russia.

Commentary on British Spy

PM0303105394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 3

[Ravil Mustafin commentary: "Spy Passions. Ames' Guilt Still Has To Be Proved in Court, While British Spy in Moscow Has Already Confessed Everything"]

[Excerpts] On Tuesday [1 March] hearings took place concerning the case of the Ames couple, who are accused of spying for Moscow. An ITAR-TASS correspondent reports that only a small group of journalists was admitted to the hearings on the pretext that there were

"not enough seats." It can thus be said that the judicial part of the "biggest spy scandal," as the sensation-seeking U.S. press has dubbed this case, is essentially taking place behind closed doors. [passage omitted]

That is how events are developing in Washington. But what is happening in Moscow?

In Moscow the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) has reported that the espionage activity of a leading official in a military-industrial complex organization has been terminated. Criminal proceedings have already been instituted in this case. The spy was arrested 15 January and on 25 January he was charged with treason against the motherland in the form of espionage.

During the preliminary investigation our counterintelligence officers obtained evidence showing that the defendant was at some time recruited by the British intelligence services and that he received from them special espionage equipment, secret writing materials, and instructions about methods of secretly communicating in Moscow with the British Embassy station. The spy worked exclusively for money, gathering and passing on information of a secret military and economic nature. We were informed by the FCS that the information handed over contained data on the latest Russian efforts in the sphere of developing various weapons systems and their specifications and performance characteristics, on the financing of defense research and development work, and on the state, prospects, and organization of military-technical cooperation between Russia and foreign countries.

But while in Washington the Ames' guilt still has to be proved, in Moscow the British spy has already admitted his guilt. Moreover, Russian counterintelligence officers neutralized this agent without kicking up a big fuss in front of the whole world. Especially as nobody in Moscow intends to transfer this event, which is routine for the special services, to the dimension of Russian-British relations and base a particular policy on it.

Simple chronology shows that the British spy's arrest in Moscow can in no way be regarded as revenge for the Ames' detention. Therefore the statement by British Labor Party Spokesman Allan Rogers that actions based on the "eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" principle can be discerned in all these cases looks plain silly.

More on Arrests of Spy, Counterespionage Staffers

MK0203104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Kudakayev report under the "Arrests" rubric: "'The Ames Affair' Expands in Russia"]

[Text] The spy family affair in the United States is being continued with the arrests of foreign special services

agents in Russia. While it is unknown what circle of persons is involved in this process, it may prove rather wide.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent has been told by Aleksandr Mikhaylov, chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] public relations center, that a high-ranking foreign intelligence agent was detained on 15 January. According to Mr. Mikhaylov, the detainee had been recruited by representatives of the English special service. Searches have turned up in his possession devices for cryptography and photographing of documents, instructions for dead drops in Moscow, and other things used by spies. The newspaper's office has managed to find out that the person involved is a senior official of the SMM (Spetsialnoye Mashinostroyeniye i Metallurgiya) [Special Machine-Building and Metallurgy] joint-stock company created on the basis of enterprises of the former USSR Oboronprom [defense industry] in charge of the completion of state programs in the area of armored equipment and artillery systems. The level of this position can be illustrated by the fact that he had the possibility of direct access to representatives of legal operatives of the English intelligence service under embassy "cover." The detained man is charged with passing to a foreign special service the most classified information on the newest systems of armaments and Russia's general defense potential. On 25 February, he was officially charged under Article 64, item "a" (high treason in the form of spying), and he fully admitted his guilt.

The information the newspaper's office received about arrests in the FCS itself and the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information (FAGCI) have still not been officially confirmed. Mr. Mikhaylov, too, "does not confirm" (neither does he deny) the fact of a FCS officer's having been arrested. FAGCI spokesman Vyacheslav Tupitsyn told your SEGODNYA correspondent that there had been no arrests in his agency of officers suspected of the commission of crimes stipulated by articles of the "special section" of Russia's Criminal Code.

'Spy Passions' Resulting From Ames Case Viewed

PM0203104794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 3

[Pavel Shinkarenko article under "Day's Event" rubric: "Spy Passions Have Begun in Washington But Are Subsiding in Moscow"]

[Text] We thought that the era of partnership that recently became established between the Kremlin and the White House could not revive the spy mania that had characterized the "Cold War" times. But no. Passions not inferior to the most somber "witch hunt" models have flared up in Washington—from the White House and the Department of State to the CIA headquarters. What has been the cause of such hysteria?

On 22 February Vladimir Chkhikvishvili, Russian charge d'affaires ad interim in the United States, was invited to the State Department, where he was told of the arrest of Aldrich Hazen Ames, a high-ranking CIA staffer, and his wife Maria Ames on a charge of working for Soviet and then also Russian intelligence. In this connection a protest was made to the diplomat. The next day Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador in Moscow, made a similar demarche when he met with Sergey Lavrov, Russian Federation deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Not that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was inclined to dramatize the situation. In particular, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department, believes that, according to the information on the "Ames case" provided by the State Department, Moscow has questions which it would be most convenient to clear up by means of direct contacts between the special services. But Washington's reasoning was different: The next day Aleksandr Lysenko, the official representative of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] at the Russian Embassy in the United States, was declared persona non grata and ordered to leave U.S. territory within a week. According to the information received at the Foreign Ministry, Aleksandr Lysenko could not have had contacts with the Ames: He arrived in the United States only last summer, and the investigation into their case has already been going on for more than 10 months. Lysenko has been named merely because some time ago the Russian and U.S. special services each agreed to disclose one of their own representatives working under cover of a diplomatic passport. This was done to coordinate actions in the struggle against international terrorism and the drug business.

On talking recently with Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee and in the recent past the Russian Federation's ambassador to the United States, I asked a question also about the prospects of the "Ames case." "Foreign intelligence is commonplace in international practice," Vladimir Petrovich explained. "Today they have disclosed a spy in the United States, tomorrow they will find one in Russia, but I believe that our president will not make a tragedy out of this. Moreover, the guilt of the Ames has not yet been proved, and for this there must be a trial."

The prognosis was confirmed. A week after the State Department's protest Russia made a counterstrike, so to speak, "on a mutual basis." On Monday the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry made a representation to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in connection with the expulsion of the FIS official representative from Washington. "In this situation," the Foreign Ministry note states, "we are forced on the basis of reciprocity to declare the CIA's representative in Moscow persona non grata and to demand his departure from the Russian Federation." According to information received from the Foreign Ministry, Embassy Counsellor James L. Morris must leave within seven days.

Our attempt to secure a comment from the Lubyanka was not successful. FIS Director Yevgeniy Primakov gave a brief reply to an analogous request from an ITAR-TASS correspondent: "No comment." To all appearances, CIA Director Woolsey is also behaving with delicacy—which obviously attests to a reluctance to fuel passions. Particularly as last year, so Germany's DIE WELT reported recently, 20 people were arrested in Russia for spying for Western countries. Unlike the United States, however, Moscow did not try to blow up any scandal, the newspaper emphasizes.

What is more, recent data published by FIS experts indicate that the claims by Neil Gerardo, president of the U.S. Gerardo International Corporation, that Aldrich Ames could have passed to Moscow production secrets of the company's new invention—the so-called MRX defense technology—were an overt fabrication. Information about Ames' involvement in the drugs trade is also no more than disinformation.

Against the background of these facts there can be just one conclusion: There are influential forces in the United States which would like, if not to return Russian-U.S. relations to the "Cold War" epoch, then at least to cast a shadow of mutual mistrust over our leaders and to halt the movement which has begun toward a Russian-U.S. partnership.

Diplomats' Expulsion, Ames' Charges Examined

PM0203131594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 3

[Rail Mustafin article: "Ames Affair: Moscow Takes Reciprocal Step"]

[Text] As we assumed it would, Moscow has taken a reciprocal step in the Ames affair. The decision of the Russian leadership to declare James Morris, counsellor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, persona non grata, became known Monday evening. The U.S. CIA resident, who was working under diplomatic cover, was instructed to leave Russia within seven days. Let us recall that Aleksandr Lysenko, the 56-year old Russian Foreign Intelligence Service representative who was expelled from the United States, received exactly the same "term." Thus, the sides kind of traded blows and exchanged figures on the board where the invisible dispute between the intelligence services is being conducted.

According to our experts, Lysenko's expulsion testifies to the weakness of the accusation against the Ames, who are being accused of espionage for Moscow's benefit, and the insufficiency and obvious weakness of the evidence against them. First of all, Lysenko, who only arrived in the United States in July of last year, would not have been able, even if he had wanted to, to "blow his cover" in contacts with Aldrich Ames so quickly. If such contacts really existed.

In that case, our intelligence agents who ran the Ames case should be expelled. But at the moment they are not being touched. Obviously, the Americans have either been unable to establish their contacts, or, what is more likely, there were no such contacts at all. This version is also corroborated by the fact that Lysenko, in accordance with a previously reached agreement between the Russian and U.S. intelligence services, was known to CIA staffers. Just as Morris was known to the Foreign Intelligence Service. This was done for the purposes of better cooperation between the two intelligence services in spheres like the struggle against drugs trafficking and the monitoring of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. But, by expelling Lysenko, the Americans have violated the gentlemen's agreement on not divulging the department to which the employees of their special services belong.

Second, even the U.S. press is talking about the insufficiency and obvious weakness of the accusation against the Ames case. Evidently, in order to somehow compensate for this failing, a sensation is deliberately being whipped up in the United States over the Ames' arrest. Since there is little evidence, all kinds of rumors are being circulated. For example, Ames is already being accused of cooperating with the drug mafia. (As we know, Aldrich Ames recently worked in the department for the struggle against drug trafficking). Neil Gerardo, president of the U.S. corporation "Gerardo International," which is involved in the development of secret weapons systems to Pentagon orders, even claims that Ames could have passed secrets to Moscow about the production of the company's latest invention—the so called MRX defense technology. According to experts, all this is rank disinformation, circulated with only one aim—to create the impression of the monstrous guilt of the Ames case despite obviously insufficient evidence.

As has become known, the decision on Lysenko's expulsion was adopted after two high-ranking CIA representatives visited Moscow last week. According to our experts' assessments, they rank third and fifth respectively in this organization's intelligence hierarchy. The purpose of their visit to Moscow was to attempt to persuade our intelligence agents (Foreign Intelligence Service Director Yevgeniy Primakov was in Slovakia at that time) to take the blame upon themselves and recall Aleksandr Lysenko nicely, as well as give up any countermeasures or comments in the press.

Comments really did appear in the press, and our intelligence officers could not assume responsibility and kind of admit their guilt by agreeing to Lysenko's recall. And they particularly could not fail to respond adequately to the expulsion of our intelligence officer.

The desire to move the affair of exposing someone's agent from a generally speaking routine level in the intelligence world onto a political level, onto the level of Russian-U.S. relations, and the desire to create a pause in relations between our countries, is obvious. This is confirmed by relevant articles in the U.S. press. In

particular, statements about the reawakened Russian bear, and about some intrigues or other on Russia's part, apparently undermining the United States' national security, have been appearing. These are sometimes being presented in a way suggesting that the U.S. taxpayer is virtually financing Russian spies. At the same time, the impression is created that behind all the Americans' demands, there lies the naive certainty that only they have the right to conduct intelligence activities, while Russia no longer has this right.

TASS Discusses Recent Espionage Cases

LD0203170494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS analyst Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The recent arrest of a British secret agent, who held a high-ranking position in Russia's military industrial complex, clearly indicated that Western special services did not intend to scale down their intelligence activities in Russia.

Not many details are available so far for obvious reasons. Thus, the name of the exposed spy is not given, the same as the duration of his work for MI-6. But even the smallest pieces of information available show that a serious damage could be caused to Russia, because the data conveyed by the SIS agent concerned the latest developments in building various arms systems, their tactical technical parameters, funding of defence-related activities, the present condition and prospects for military technical cooperation between Russia and foreign countries.

Last year, 20 foreign special agents were brought to trial in Russia. The arrest of another spy spotlighted an extremely thorny problem, that of reliable protection of our secrets. This problem is not new, but it calls for serious consideration and solution, taking into account the increasing shift towards industrial espionage in activities of special services, according to Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service. This holds true not only about the U.S., British and German secret services, but also to major Western corporations seeking to obtain, by any possible means, information about plans of their rivals, of which Russia [is] a key one. For this reason, experts note, our country needs a mechanism for reliable protection of its priorities in the fields of science, technology and know-how, let alone other specific activities. Otherwise, it would be more profitable for Russian specialists to sell their developments to the West, and shortly afterwards the state would have to use them on a license basis.

The arrest of a British secret agent, who was caught red-handed on January 15, is not the only case in a series of spy exposures in Russia. Many of them were much spoken about, the others did not receive such a wide public response. All this testifies to a continuous confrontation between the Soviet and the Russian special services and foreign ones, which has quite a long history. Some events in this history are as follows.

In the United States: 1978—three diplomats were expelled from the country. 1986—the number of expulsions made up 80 diplomats. 1987—Marine Sergeant Clayton Lonetree was sentenced to 30 years in prison for espionage for the Soviet intelligence service. 1989—Soviet military diplomat Yuriy Pakhtusov was declared persona non grata. Last February 1994—Russian Embassy counsellor Aleksandr Lysenko was expelled from the United States.

As for the Soviet Union and Russia, the facts are as follows: March 7, 1983—U.S. Embassy First Secretary Richard Osborne was expelled from the country. September 11, 1983—U.S. Consul in Leningrad London Davin Augustenborg were declared personas non grata. [as received] June 2, 1983—U.S. Embassy attache Lewis Thomas was caught red-handed in Moscow. June 13, 1985—U.S. Embassy Second Secretary Paul Stonebough was declared persona non grata. 1986—Over 10 U.S. diplomats were declared personas non grata. September 7, 1986—Charges were brought against U.S. Citizen Nicholas Daniloff who was detained on August 30, 1986, during a secret spy action. He was expelled from the country on September 29. March 1989—Aide to the military attache Daniel F. van Ghandi was declared persona non grata. February 1994—U.S. Embassy counsellor James Morris was declared persona non grata.

In Great Britain: 1972-1984—nine Soviet diplomats were expelled from the country. 1985—former KGB secret police officer Oleg Gordiyevsky, who was recruited by Britain's MI-6 in 1974, was illegally taken from the Soviet Union. September 1985—25 Soviet representatives were expelled from Great Britain. The Soviet side retaliated by expelling six British representatives from the country on September 18, 1985. 1989—the British Government expelled from the country 11 Soviet officials and declared another three Soviet officials, who left the country earlier, personas non grata.

May 1989—the Soviet Government expelled 11 British officials from the country. Three British citizens, who earlier worked in Moscow, were declared personas non grata.

In France: 1977—a Soviet official at UNESCO was expelled. 1980—the Soviet consul in Marseilles was expelled. Late March 1983—French authorities expelled from the country, without any grounds, 47 staffers of the Soviet embassy and other offices. March 16, 1987—seven men were arrested in Rouen on charges of industrial espionage for the Soviet Union. Failing to prove their guilt, court had to release the suspects.

This is how the special services of Russia, the United States, Great Britain and France had been working for the past several years. And this work is most likely to be continued in future.

Kozyrev: No Recognition of Bosnian Serb State

LD0203212694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Russia will not recognize the creation of an independent state of Bosnian Serbs. This was stated by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in an interview to RIA. At the same time he underlined that Russia recognizes the Bosnian Serbs as one of the conflicting sides.

The head of the Foreign Ministry paid special attention to the conclusion of an agreement on the airport in Tuzla. Kozyrev believes that this agreement could be assessed as the second breakthrough in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis, after Sarajevo. The Russian minister also added that Moscow does not insist on the sending of a U.S. peacemaking contingent to Bosnia.

Shumeyko, Karadzic Comment on Meeting

LD0203161994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Sergey Terekhov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—"Today Russia is on the side of the Bosnian Serbs," Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, declared at the end of the talks with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs. He went on to specify that it was a question of peacekeeping efforts within the framework of the international process of a Bosnian settlement. "Russian President Boris Yeltsin took the initiative, and Radovan Karadzic accepted the initiative and met it half way. The peace process is continuing despite everything." This is not only a great achievement by Russian diplomacy, but a demonstration to the whole world of Russia's independent policy, Vladimir Shumeyko emphasized.

It is now hard to separate military events from political ones, he continued. The decision we made yesterday—we prepared Tuzla Airport for plane landings and humanitarian deliveries—knocks the ground from under the feet of those forces that would like the confrontation to continue.

Vladimir Shumeyko also stated that he "had a very high regard for the meeting and the current visit by Karadzic and his colleagues," which, according to him, "is of tremendous importance to the destiny of peoples."

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, on his part, said: "Today we spoke about peace and about the possibility of establishing peace and Russian soldiers are a hope for us." He noted that U.S. interference in the Bosnian crisis was justified only if the Americans did not side with anyone in the conflict. No single country "can take the place of the United Nations," he noted. In order to achieve a settlement of the problem it is important that all of those who participate in this settlement should display an unbiased towards the various sides. We expect Russia to be on our side, Karadzic stressed, only on the

question of achieving peace". We do not expect Russia to defend exclusively our interests."

Radovan Karadzic also said that he does not differentiate between the peacekeeping forces on grounds of their nationality. Up to now, the Serbs have had "warm feelings" for all representatives of the peacekeeping forces regardless of their nationality. However, the Russian contingent enjoys the "special trust" of the Serbian population.

More on Shumeyko, Karadzic Meeting

LD0203181594 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1623 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—"Russia is on the side of those Serbs in Bosnia who are working for peace," Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, said today following his talks with Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic.

The chairman of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament did not specify what he meant by this. He went on to say that "some forces in the world today want the confrontation in former Yugoslavia to continue." The Bosnian Serbs' decision to allow Tuzla airport to be opened for humanitarian aid deliveries "knocks the ground from under the feet of those forces."

During his meeting with journalists, Karadzic said that Bosnian Serbs are ready to work for a peaceful solution to the Bosnian crisis and that mechanisms for achieving this goal are being discussed in the talks in Moscow.

In reply to a question, the president of the Serb Republic said that the Serb side is ready to join the agreement on a federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina signed in Washington by the Croats and Muslims, "if it is in our interest."

Karadzic supported an initiative by Russian President Boris Yeltsin for a summit meeting of Russia, the United States, Great Britain, France, and Germany.

This afternoon Radovan Karadzic had talks in the Russian Ministry of Defense with Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

Churkin Meets Karadzic

LD0203152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1458 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar— Vitaliy Churkin, the special representative of the Russian president and deputy Russian foreign minister today met Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, who arrived in Moscow on Monday [28 February] at the Russian side's initiative.

During the course of talks on problems of a Bosnian settlement at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Karadzic

spoke about the Bosnian Serbs' consent to the opening in the near future of the airport at Tuzla under the control of and with the participation of international observers in order to supply humanitarian cargoes to the town. At the same time, Karadzic noted, the Bosnian Serbs proceed from the fact that Russian observers will be taking part in controlling the non-military use of the airport.

Also examined in Moscow were questions of the implementation of the Russian president's initiative on holding a summit meeting in the Russian capital with the purpose of arriving as quickly as possible at an agreement on peace, an all-embracing settlement to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the lifting of sanctions against the FRY.

At a regular working meeting between the Russian president's special representative and Karadzic, specific measures for implementing the accords and proposals of other countries for discussion at a session of the UN Security Council were examined.

Churkin Briefs on Kozyrev-Karadzic Statement

LD0203205194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—The statement by Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, and the leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic after the talks on Tuesday [1 March] with regard to the unblocking of the airport in Tuzla "is a very important political step, apart from the fact that this is an extremely significant contribution to improving the humanitarian situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina." This was stated at a briefing for Russian journalists held at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry by Vitaliy Churkin, a Russian deputy foreign minister. According to the high-ranking Russian diplomat, this political step is important because in the course of political developments Tuzla has lately turned into a second symbol of unresolved problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina, next to Sarajevo. As long ago as several months or possibly even a year, the opening of the airport in Tuzla was declared to be one of the principal goals of the European Union; the issue was also mentioned in NATO resolutions several times. We have been feeling a certain aggravation of the situation around the Tuzla airport recently, V. Churkin said.

We have, he said, been engaged on this issue for a long time and had discussed the subject with the Serbs. At the time they had said to us that they were greatly concerned over the fact that Tuzla airport would be used by the Muslim side for military deliveries. They said that appropriate monitoring of the procedure was essential. Some time ago Russia put forward the idea that the presence there of Russian observers, along with other observers, was needed to remove this concern. For a long time we told all those interested in this matter about this

readiness on our part, the Russian deputy foreign minister noted, and it should be said that this readiness on Russia's part was immediately welcomed. "I am speaking especially of this," V. Churkin emphasized, "because somehow it emerges that after yesterday's statement some people have suddenly been attempting to present matters as though the Russians had almost deceived someone when they issued this statement and suddenly prepared this decision." In actual fact there was a multilateral UN meeting on 25 February at which this issue was also discussed in quite some detail and at which it was stated that the opening of Tuzla airport might be pushed through as early as 7 March. That is why, the high-ranking Russian diplomat considers, no one should be surprised in the slightest that such an agreement was finally reached precisely during the high-level meeting in Moscow between the Russian foreign minister and the leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

Vitaliy Churkin continued that now it is up to the Muslim side. The discussion of the problem with the Bosnian Serbs was held on the basis of a document that was offered to Serbs and Muslims by Yasushi Akashi, the representative of the UN secretary-general for the former Yugoslavia. It provides for the international monitoring and the presence of Muslim and Serbian contact groups on the territory of the airport in Tuzla to have a truly clear picture that this airport is used for humanitarian and not for some other purpose. Vitaliy Churkin noted that in this connection, at the moment, frankly speaking, a little bit surprised that the Muslim leadership is speaking out against it. The Muslim leadership is also speaking out against the presence of Russian observers and against the presence of a contact Serbian group in this airport. It is difficult for me to understand why all that is happening." The deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation said that "we do not need this; we are going to feed, help, and ensure the humanitarian aid not for the Russian population. In the first instance this will be the Muslim population, and I repeat, Serbs and Croats, as well, if they live in this area. I cannot understand at all why somebody should express any doubts about it."

Vitaliy Churkin said he was sure that this turn of events had not been a surprise either for the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina or for the Muslim side. He expressed the hope that in the next few days all the details of the operation to open the airport will have been settled so that the airport can start to function and humanitarian aid be delivered to the population of this area of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to the deputy foreign minister "a representative of the Emergencies Ministry is now in Zagreb after being in Belgrade yesterday, because, as you know, that organization is still engaged in the delivery of humanitarian goods by land."

In this connection he drew attention to the fact that the Russians involved in this operation will be not military people and not from the Defense Ministry but precisely

from the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters, which was formerly the state committee for emergencies. They are well trained people. According to him the Russian side intends to act strictly within the framework of the scheme and the operation being prepared by Mr. Akashi and the leaderships of the former Yugoslavia itself and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As for the agreement on the creation of a Croatian-Muslim federation, it should be said that a preliminary agreement has been prepared on the creation of a confederation between this Croatian-Muslim federation and Serbia. "This has not come as news to us," V. Churkin emphasized. "I must express my satisfaction at the character of the contacts and consultations that we have had with the American side and in particular with my American counterpart, envoy Redman, because right from the outset he informed me in detail of his plans." "It seems to me," he said, "that Chuck Redman is engaged in studying some interesting possibilities which might, if they turned out right, certainly help the achievement of a Bosnian settlement. I have not yet had an opportunity to study the documents in detail, but it is a matter of settling a number of aspects of Muslim-Croatian relations. If this agreement is correctly incorporated within the general context of a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it could full well prove useful. However this probably requires still closer interaction on our part with the Americans and also with the other countries that are displaying a keen interest in the problems of achieving a Bosnian settlement."

Holds Talks With French Officials

LD0203221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 March—Questions about the situation in the Bosnia region following Russian President Boris Yeltsin's initiative for peaceful progress in a settlement were discussed today at the Russian Foreign Ministry during consultations on Russian-French cooperation in settling the Bosnian crisis. An exchange of opinions took place on draft documents proposed for examination by the UN Security Council.

Taking part in the consultations from the Russian side was Vitaliy Churkin, deputy foreign minister and special representative of the Russian president at the talks on the former Yugoslavia, and from the French side: Alain Dejammé, deputy general secretary of the French Foreign Ministry, and Bruno Racine, director of the Center for Analysis and Forecasting.

Blue Berets in 'Strict Conformity' With UNSC

LD0203172194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1653 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—Russian "blue berets" are operating and will continue to operate in the Balkans in strict conformity with the UN Security Council resolutions. This was stated today by Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, at a meeting with Bosnia Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic, who is in Moscow.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Information and Press Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Defense that during the course of the meeting Radovan Karadzic, on behalf of his people, expressed great gratitude and thanks to the Russian servicemen who are fulfilling their peacekeeping mission in the Balkans.

Croatia's Granic Admits Downed Planes Took Off From Croatia

LD0303083794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations Organisation: March 3 TASS—The planes, brought down in Bosnia, took off from the Croatian territory, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic admitted on Wednesday [2 March] at the U.N. headquarters.

Responding to the question of journalists, whether the planes, that were brought down, were Serb or Croatian, Granic said: "The planes flew from the zone, protected by the U.N., from the Nudvina airport. A permanent representative of Croatia at the U.N. has already informed of it the chairman of the Security Council. We suggested that the U.N. put that airport under control."

Airborne Troops Chief on Bosnia Deployment

PM0303102194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Colonel General Ye.N. Podkolzin, commander of Russian Federation Airborne Troops, by Colonel Aleksandr Oliynik; place and date not given: "Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin: Our Peacemakers in Bosnia Were Welcomed With Bread and Salt. Airborne Troops' Commander Answers Questions From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent"]

[Text] [Oliynik] Yevgeniy Nikolayevich, Russia's initiative, thanks to which the threat of a new escalation of the war in the Balkans because of the NATO ultimatum has been averted, is today being called none other than a "diplomatic triumph for the Russians." But when did you yourself learn of it? For literally until recently the opposite viewpoint prevailed, did it not, in our political leadership and in the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense—not to send our "blue helmets" into the Bosnian meat grinder on any pretext?

[Podkolzin] Yes, indeed, until very recently both the president of Russia and the minister of defense were

doing all they could to oppose—I will not fight shy of this word—the use of our "blue helmets" within the framework of the UN peacemaking forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Although, as we know, there had been quite a few calls for this both from the United Nations and from Washington and other Western countries. In my view the decisive factor which influenced our policy on the Bosnian crisis was not only the tough NATO ultimatum, which, incidentally, was announced without consultation with Russia—a permanent member of the UN Security Council—but the fact that the proposed airstrike not only would not have brought nearer the peaceful settlement of the crisis but, on the contrary, would have led to a new escalation of the war in the Balkans and to numerous human casualties.

[Oliynik] It is appropriate here to recall also the history of World War II in the Balkans. A total of 20 divisions—8 German and 12 Italian—got stuck in the Bosnian mountains in an attempt to crush the Yugoslav partisans' resistance. Tito's army not only held out but also triumphed....

[Podkolzin] Exactly. The Balkans are not Iraq, and strong-arm methods, as the facts show, do not work here. Before playing at war we should think about the consequences of military operations for the Balkans and for Europe as a whole. As for my own participation in carrying out our initiative, I learned of it from a personal conversation with Army General Pavel Grachev which I had at 1300 hours 18 February. The minister of defense reported that the Russian president had decided, in line with an accord with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to transfer to Sarajevo part (400 men) of our UN battalion stationed in Serb Krajina. In order to coordinate operations, on the morning of 19 February I flew out to Belgrade and then to Sarajevo together with Vitaliy Churkin, the president's special representative, and with officers of the Airborne Troops. Incidentally, owing to bad weather Belgrade was not receiving flights (visibility was down to zero), and yet our pilots managed to land the aircraft after circling five times.

[Oliynik] We know from television broadcasts and the press how enthusiastically the population of Bosnia welcomed the column of Russian paratroopers. But I guess this march of almost 500 km through the mountains was not easy, was it?

[Podkolzin] Of course, this rapid relocation cost the soldiers and officers a great effort. For we had not only to prepare hardware for the march but also to select the men: The contracts of the majority of the paratroopers end in April, and they were to have returned home. Then the order came to set out for Sarajevo. They must be given their due—no one was frightened by the dangers. At exactly the designated time—1800 hours 20 February—our armored group headed by Colonel Viktor Vorobyev arrived in the Sarajevo region. Moreover, it was a mixed column—in the space of 18 hours 21 armored personnel carriers and 40 Ural trucks negotiated six passes on the 500-km route and went through a

snowstorm, across unfamiliar terrain. You can understand our paratroopers' feelings when, contrary to expectations, they were greeted with songs, bread and salt.... Incidentally, our column was given an enthusiastic welcome not only by Serbs but also by Muslims, but this did not embarrass the Muslim leaders, who voiced their displeasure at this.

[Oliynik] Won't our "blue helmets" find themselves in the role of a live target at Sarajevo? For, in the event of new clashes between the warring sides, they will hardly be stopped by the blue UN color of the Russian paratroopers' uniform. In addition, direct provocations cannot be ruled out either....

[Podkolzin] This is the most complex and difficult question today. Our paratroopers have taken up positions near Trebevic and Vraca, from where the Serbs have withdrawn their heavy arms, and also around Sarajevo Airport. They find themselves at a bullet's distance, as it were, from both warring sides—Muslims and Serbs. Let us be frank—in the event of a large-scale conflict it will not, of course, be possible to avoid casualties. At the same time Britain's General Rose, commander of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with whom I met twice, assured me that he is taking all measures for the safety of the contingent of "blue helmets," including the Russians. To this end a reinforcement has now arrived in the Sarajevo region from the Scandinavian, Jordanian, and Slovak battalions stationed in Croatia, as well as two British battalions from Central Bosnia. To this it should be added that the leaders of the Bosnians and the Serbs assured me and the command of the UN forces in Bosnia that they would no longer permit large-scale combat operations in the Sarajevo region....

[Oliynik] What can you say about the duration of our paratroopers' stay in the Sarajevo region?

[Podkolzin] It would be better to ask the politicians about this, and not just our politicians. Too much hatred has built up in the Balkans during the two-year period of bloodshed, and there have been too many casualties to be able to speak of the sides' rapid reconciliation. But I am certain of one thing: The Bosnian crisis must be resolved by political means alone. If we are speaking of the immediate future of our paratroopers in this region, it is known that, in accordance with the Russian president's decision and with the agreement of the Federation Council, an additional troop contingent of 300 men is setting out for Bosnia-Herzegovina to participate in the peacemaking mission as part of the UN forces. As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, incidentally, our second battalion of "blue helmets" will be stationed there. We have also put a proposal to the UN Secretariat to increase the number of our officers on the staff of the commander of the UN forces in Yugoslavia, which is in Zagreb, and on the Sarajevo-based staff of the UN forces.

[Oliynik] Having recovered from its shock at the galvanization of Russian policy in the Balkans, the West has now started saying that, since the NATO ultimatum has taken effect, it would not be a bad thing to apply it in other parts of Bosnia too. What is your view?

[Podkolzin] I am afraid our paratroopers would not suffice for all the "hot spots" in Bosnia. I am joking, of course, but seriously, the "policy of ultimatums" can hardly be applied—on 21 February the Balkans and maybe also the whole of Europe were on the brink of war. We know too well that many wars need only a spark to ignite them but are far harder to end.

[Oliynik] Incidentally, where were you at 0100 hours 21 February?

[Podkolzin] Despite the fact that our delegation had been informed that there would be no bombing strikes, I well knew as a military man that the NATO war machine had been set in motion and that the most irremediable eventuality might occur. At the moment the ultimatum expired (this was 0300 hours, local time, 21 February) I was on the territory of the hospitable Ukrainian UN battalion. Everyone was anxious, and—I will not hide the fact—when the ultimatum ran out, together with the Ukrainian officers (for the majority were serving in our troops only yesterday) we raised our glasses to the Russian paratroopers who had won a victory in Bosnia without a war. Who knows, it was, maybe, thanks to our mobility that all of Europe woke up that February morning without a war....

NATO Firmness, Russian Diplomacy Open Tuzla Airport

*PM0203171994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
3 Mar 94 First Edition p3*

[Maksim Yusin report: "Under Moscow's Pressure the Bosnian Serbs Are Making Concessions"]

[Text] Russian diplomacy is celebrating a new success in the Balkan region. At the end of the talks with Andrey Kozyrev, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic stated that his forces will end the blockade of the airport at the besieged city of Tuzla and its starving population will now be able to receive humanitarian aid.

The West tried long and unsuccessfully to get the Serbs to take this step. Karadzic remained firm: The Serbs were afraid that the Muslims would use the airport for arms shipments. The Serbian weapons deployed in the immediate vicinity of the runway could have destroyed any aircraft approaching Tuzla. Since May 1992 the airport has been virtually inoperative. The humanitarian aid convoys have had to be sent overland—along very difficult roads. The several hundred thousand inhabitants of the Muslim enclave (including 25,000 Serbs) were in a desperate position. In the West there were increasingly frequent calls to end the blockade of the airport by military means. France officially put forward such a proposal.

As in the case of Sarajevo it was Moscow which undertook the mediation mission. "Tuzla was one of the most sensitive problems on Bosnian territory," Vitaliy Churkin, Russian deputy foreign minister, told IZVESTIYA. "We talked with the Serbs for a long time about opening the airport so that the accord which was reached in Moscow was no surprise." The crucial argument which convinced the Serbs to make concessions was Russia's readiness to send its observers to Tuzla where they could monitor the freight arriving at the airport. "We trust the impartiality of the Russians. Their presence is the guarantee that the Muslims will not receive weapons instead of food," Karadzic stated.

The date of the start of the operation has not been announced yet. In Churkin's words, 50 Russian observers are ready to fly to Bosnia in the immediate future. Moscow has promised that the first plane carrying humanitarian aid to land at Tuzla airport after the lifting of the blockade will be Russian.

There are two reasons for the Serbs' compliance. First, the persistence of Churkin and Kozyrev. The head of Russian diplomacy has acknowledged that the talks with Karadzic, lasting over two hours, were difficult. Once again Moscow had to use all its influence on the Serbs to persuade them to accept a compromise. The second reason is the firmness shown by NATO in the skies over Bosnia on Monday: Four planes violated the UN no-fly ban and were shot down by U.S. fighters. The Serbs realized that the West was prepared for firm action and that this time its threats were not empty talk. Moscow, in turn, made it clear that it would not enter into confrontation with NATO for the Serbs' sake. The Russian reaction to the incident in the air was indicative in this respect. The Foreign Ministry supported the West and pinned all the blame on the violators of the "no-fly zone," although there was hardly any doubt that the downed planes were Serbian.

By all accounts, Karadzic realized that in the present situation stubbornness will cost dear and concessions are inevitable. Russia's proposal to send its observers to Tuzla enabled Karadzic to save face and at the same time rebuff the supporters of the hard line in parliament and the army, who have been accusing him of being too soft.

Karadzic supported Boris Yeltsin's proposal for a summit meeting on Bosnia to be held in Moscow. He let it be known that the Serbs could make new compromises. The joint communique adopted on the results of the talks reflected that idea although it was worded very vaguely: "The Bosnian Serbs will show the maximum constructiveness taking into account among other things the qualitative criteria of the territorial demarcation in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

In the opinion of Russian diplomats, Karadzic is prepared to abide by the promise to withdraw the artillery 20 km from besieged Sarajevo as NATO is demanding. Admittedly, there have been reports lately that the Serbs

are not fulfilling their obligations and that from time to time their tanks have been violating the "prohibited zone." In Moscow, however, they are convinced that such incidents are happening against the will of the Bosnian Serb leadership, which is not in full control of its armed formations.

Commentary on Government Approach to Bosnia

PM0303114794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy commentary: "Growing Level of Activity To Resolve Bosnian Conflict"]

[Text] In recent days some people have started speaking with hope and others with apprehension of Russia's increasing efforts to achieve a Yugoslav settlement. Certain politicians' voices quiver with irritation and even a sense of grievance at Moscow's "unilateral" actions which have led to a breakthrough in the 22-month-old impasse of the Bosnian crisis. They are less keen to talk about the impotence and fruitlessness of their own, admittedly, "multilateral" efforts to achieve the same overall aims by purely strong-arm methods.

Be that as it may, it should be acknowledged that Russia's increasingly active involvement in resolving the Yugoslav crisis and Moscow's increasingly constructive role in this process are objectively prompting our Western partners to consider, search for, and make unorthodox moves. Paris, London, and Washington are reluctant to award the laurels of arbiter of the Balkan's fate to Russia "without a fight." But Russia is not seeking to determine the development of events in the expanses of former Yugoslavia single-handedly. Russia has for a long time now been persistently urging the Security Council and the major European powers to find a coordinated, mutually acceptable way of solving the Bosnian conflict.

From this standpoint, the accord reached in Moscow between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on lifting the siege of the airport in Tuzla and its use for the delivery of humanitarian consignments to the Muslim population under the supervision of Russian observers is an excellent example of actual constructive moves. If the Serbs regard the Russians as historical allies and partners and are ready to cooperate, if you will, more closely and openly with us, thank God for that. If the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia are able to achieve peace on the basis of the agreement signed at the same time in Washington on creating a federation with the support of the Americans or others that is a very fine thing.

It is important that the great powers do not succumb to the temptation of exploiting the situation in Bosnia solely as a stage for demonstrating their place in world politics and showing "who's master in the house" rather than actually trying to resolve the Bosnians' future. For example, the U.S. Administration and its top officials—for the time being at any rate—are successfully resisting the conservatives' accusations that they are making

concessions to Russia. President Clinton considers—and with justification—that it is not so important who makes how many initiatives, what counts is not the arithmetic of propaganda but the effectiveness of the efforts of all the sides involved in settling the crisis.

Some Western politicians and commentators in the mass media are discussing whether Russia will damage its relations with the West to save its Serbian ally? The question is improperly formulated, and any kind of answer to it will therefore be inaccurate too. Here you clearly see an approach characteristic of the Cold War era, when the superpowers divided the world up into spheres of influence and a whole policy, or even whole countries could be categorized as either "ours" or "bad."

No, the world is not like that today. And there should be no reversion to the old standards. We should therefore regard as a good policy not necessarily "ours" but the policy that leads objectively to general well-being and victory over common misfortunes. Incidentally, Russia has exhibited such an approach over the incident involving the planes downed in the Sarajevo region. It has not been clarified to date whose planes they were, where they took off from, or who piloted them. But our

country firmly supports the UN-approved stance on the unacceptability of any side employing aircraft for combat purposes in the skies above Bosnia. (The aircraft downed by the Americans, no wreckage of which has yet been seen (!), are claimed to be Yugoslav-made G-2 Galeb or G-4 Supergaleb light jet trainers. The former Yugoslav People's Army was equipped with them and they can be used as ground-attack aircraft.

The fact that the first real successes of the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations and its contingent in former Yugoslavia and the parallel moves of Moscow and Washington have also necessarily showed up the worth of people in the Bosnian leadership and what their true aims are is another matter. Thus Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, for example, has stated that the opening of the airport at Tuzla is "an insult to the United Nations," as it will be carried out by Russians. That is to say, what is important to Ganic, is it not, is not a positive result but the actual process of the struggle for it? He does not want to see Russian soldiers wearing Blue Berets in his republic, as they, Ganic said in a BBC interview, will bring "Russia's internal problems" to Bosnia.

Political Issues**Prosecution To Appeal Against End of Coup Trial**

LD0203142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258
GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The team of prosecutors at the trial of 1991 Soviet coup plotters plans to appeal against the court decision to drop criminal proceedings against the accused.

On Tuesday the court dropped criminal charges against the defendants following the Duma-proclaimed amnesty.

"The prosecution believes that the court decision contradicts the criminal-procedural code of the Russian Federation, according to which any court investigation which is underway should be carried out to the end and a guilty or non-guilty verdict passed", the office of the prosecutor general said in a statement received by TASS on Wednesday.

Shakhray, Zhirinovskiy Claim Credit for Amnesty

LD0203185694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801
GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The "laurels" of Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, whose faction initiated the adoption of the resolution on political amnesty has obviously touched Russian nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on the raw.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the faction of his Liberal Democratic Party of Russia claimed the right to Shakhray's laurels. "The party has promised its voters to ensure the adoption of this act and it has kept its promise," the statement said.

However, in his statement on February 23 Konstantin Zatulin, secretary of the faction of Shakhray's party in the parliament, said that the initiative to adopt the memorandum of accord together with the resolutions on amnesty belonged to the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

Meanwhile, Shakhray and Zhirinovskiy have been trying to distance themselves from the political consequences of amnesty. Shakhray said at a session of the State Duma, the lower house, that despite his will, "the consistency of the plan of national reconciliation was broken." As a result, those pardoned will "again dive for political fighting," he said [as received].

Zhirinovskiy noted that his "party is in no way connected with the people who have been pardoned under amnesty."

Rybin: 'Inconsistency' in Amnesty Implementation

PM0203133594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Gamov report on telephone interview with Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybin; place and date of interview not given: "Evening Call to Ivan Rybin"]

[Text] [Gamov] Ivan Petrovich, the State Duma's amnesty decision provoked a stormy outburst of emotions in society and a sharp protest and alarm among many Russians due to the possible exacerbation of the political situation in the country. Does this worry you personally?

[Rybin] For some reason one decree is being taken out of the context of all the State Duma decrees adopted 23 February, namely the one on a political and economic amnesty. Although we have issued a package of five documents, the main one of them being the Memorandum on Accord which says that, together with the government and president and other federal power structures, we must elaborate in the next two to three months joint approaches toward solving a wide range of problems of a political, economic, national, and social nature.

All this work should have preceded the implementation of the decree on an amnesty, because the amnesty itself is supposed to last quite a long time. Under the president's legislative initiative it is proposed to release a total of 222,000 people from places of confinement and national economic construction sites, plus those involved in the events of August 1991 and September and October 1993.

It turned out that some inconsistency arose in implementing the adopted decisions because of insufficiently efficient coordination between the authorities. Undoubtedly all this creates certain problems in society. Nevertheless, based on the provisions of the Memorandum on Accord, we must see to it that the people who have been released find their place in this life and that they are actively included in constructive work to extricate Russia from the crisis.

I think an absolute majority of them will do just that. But if some people lack the intelligence, the heart, or the desire to work for accord.... The state has the strength to put them in their place. Especially as the supplement to the Criminal Code, which has already been given its first reading and which will, I hope, acquire the force of law in the near future, envisages the strengthening of punishments relating precisely to the entire range of articles referred to in the decree on an amnesty.

Gorbachev: 'Proper Lessons' Must Be Drawn

LD0203174394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Ex-president of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev stated that although the Supreme Court's Military Collegium had terminated the trial of the 1991 coup leaders, the circumstances of the August putsch must be analyzed and proper lessons taken from them.

"The events in August 1991 and in October 1993 are complicated and extraordinary, with uneasy consequences. No one can easily forget them," he told Interfax on Wednesday.

"The situation whereby the state is ruined, the president thrown down and the parliament shelled, and all this is forgotten is a bad example and a bad precedent," he said.

"In compensation for that, we must be given hope for national reconciliation which alone can justify such steps (the termination of the trial of the 1991 coup leaders—Interfax). There can be no other justification. Such things are unpardonable," said Gorbachev.

Commenting on ex-prisoner of Lefortovo Aleksandr Rutskoy's statement, circulated on Wednesday, Gorbachev described it as "responsible" and "reflecting serious intentions". Rutskoy urged the Russian citizens to maintain peace and national accord.

Gaydar Terms Amnesty Act Illegal

LD0303065694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] According to Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Choice Party, the amnesty act adopted on 23 February was illegal. It was adopted by a majority of deputies in the State Duma with the aim of destabilizing the situation in Russia. Gaydar was speaking in Moscow at an assembly of democratic members of society devoted to the situation which has developed in Russia since the amnesty.

Approximately 1,000 people took part in the assembly. These included representatives of the Democratic Russia Movement, the Living Ring Union, and other democratic organizations.

Khasbulatov To Work on Book in Grozny

LD0103224394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859
GMT 1 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS—Former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov released on Saturday from Lefortovo jail in accordance with the Duma amnesty, is leaving tonight for the Chechen capital Grozny.

According to his spokesman Konstantin Zlobin, in Chechnya Khasbulatov will see his mother who resides

there. After some recreation, the former speaker is going to resume working on a book on relations between legislative and executive powers which he started to write in prison.

However, Zlobin denied reports that Khasbulatov intended to settle in Chechnya permanently.

Khasbulatov, ethnic Chechen, had been elected to the previous Russian legislature from Russia's southern republic of Chechnya. He was deprived of the Chechen citizenship when refused to leave parliament after the independence-seeking republic called back all its deputies. The citizenship was returned to Khasbulatov after he was jailed as a ringleader of the October hard-line revolt in Moscow what instantly made him "a national hero" in Chechnya.

Stepashin Appointed Counterintelligence Chief

LD0303082394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750
GMT 3 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Thursday appointing Sergey Stepashin head of the federal counter-intelligence service of the Russian Federation, the presidential press-service reported today.

Biographical Profile

LD0303091494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838
GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS - President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on Thursday, appointing Sergey Stepashin, 42, director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service.

Stepashin graduated from a military school of the Soviet Union's Interior Ministry, a military academy and served in special troops of the Interior Ministry. He taught at the Leningrad school of the Interior Ministry and has a master of sciences degree in history.

Stepashin repeatedly visited "flash points" in the former Soviet Union (Baku, Ferghana, Nagorno-Karabakh and Abkhazia).

He served as legislator between 1990 and 1993, heading the Russian parliament committee on defence and security.

Stepashin worked as deputy minister of security in 1991-1992 and as first deputy minister from September 1992. He is a member of the Russian Security Council.

Stepashin was appointed first deputy director of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service on December 21, 1993.

Counterintelligence Service To Be Reorganized

LD0203154194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] According to sources close to the administration of the Russian president, a new reorganization of the former KGB, at present the Federal Service of Counterintelligence, is under way. There are two options. According to the first one, Russian counterintelligence will be renamed the Federal Directorate of Investigations and will be part of the Justice Ministry, as in America.

The second option calls for the transfer of the former KGB under the control of the president. In both cases Russian counterintelligence may lose its status as an independent federal body and may simply become a subdivision of either one or the other state directorate.

Some analysts see in the proposed reform an attempt by interested parties, including foreign ones, to finally lower the status of Russia's state security structures. According to the source, the appointment of the head of the Federal Service of Counterintelligence, who will most probably be Sergey Stepashin, will be announced at the same time as a decree about the reorganization of the former KGB.

Further on Reorganization

MK0303093094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Americanization of the KGB Continues"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from reliable sources that the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] will be reorganized once again.

It is planned to split the FCS and to subordinate the splinters to various ministries. For instance, the main service—the Administration of Counterintelligence Operations—will be renamed the Federal Administration of Investigations and subordinated to the Justice Ministry. The Military Counterintelligence Service is to become part of the Defense Ministry General Staff as a main administration. The Economy Ministry will also acquire its own counterintelligence service. It will be the Economic Counterintelligence Administration.

It is planned to strip military ranks from staffers of the new special services to be set up on the basis of the FCS (except for the military counterintelligence service). Instead, counterespionage system officers will have the following positions: agent, agent second class, special agent, and so forth.

In the course of reform it is planned to cut down the FCS central staff so as to strengthen the special service's regional branches at its expense. It is even possible that the entire central staff of the former FCS may move from

the capital to nearby areas of Moscow Oblast. The reorganization of the FCS will be completed within the next six months.

Counterintelligence, Interior Officers Killed

LD0303063494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0617 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Nakhodka, Maritime Territory March 3 Tass—An officer of the federal counterintelligence service and an Interior Ministry officer were killed late on Wednesday night in the city of Nakhodka. The circumstances of their death are still unclear. Senior executives of the security and interior departments of the Maritime Territory are investigating the case.

Investigation Into Deaths Begins

LD0303143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Nakhodka March 3 TASS—The investing agencies of the Maritime territory have started the investigation of the death in Nakhodka of an officer of the counterintelligence service and a militia officer.

According to the ITAR-TASS information, Yevgeniy Vysukubov, an officer of the regional branch of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and 1st Lieutenant Mikhail Rusin, senior official of the Department for Combatting Organised Crime at the city branch of the Interior Ministry, were shot dead from revolvers and a submachine-gun late at night on Wednesday. Another militiaman was wounded.

According to preliminary information, the tragedy was the result of the careless handling of guns.

Zhirinovskiy Accused of Forging Ad Payment Orders

MK0303092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Gleb Cherkasov report: "LDPR Used Fake Payment Orders. Galaktika and Mayak Radio Stations File a Suit"]

[Text] It is an open secret that the LDPR's [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] overwhelming success in the Federal Assembly elections was largely predetermined by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's clever use of the press, far outracing his competitors in penetrating the electric mass media. The issue of the origin of funds that enabled Mr. Zhirinovskiy's to address his fellow countrymen so often has been discussed at all levels by all persons concerned. New information, however, forces a different approach to the question of the LDPR's hypothetical financial power. Apparently at least part of the LDPR's

campaign was financed by counterfeit payment orders issued on behalf of organizations which were not going to contest the elections.

On 6 December the LDPR sent payment order 28 for 26 million rubles through Progressbank to the Galaktika radio station, which is the prime contractor of the Ostankino TV and radio company's Publitsist studio, in payment for "LDPR's election campaign transmissions in the Novaya Volna program from 1 December to 12 December 1993." According to Vladimir Lugovinov, general director of the Publitsist studio, the "payment order" was to cover expenses of three hours of air time made available to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to conduct his election campaign.

At the same time, a letter came to the Mayak radio station accounts department signed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy asking to make air time available; somewhat later, payment order 78/93, for 10,719,737 rubles as of 6 December, came from Progressbank. The LDPR leader received 69 minutes of air time.

In spite of the "payment orders," no money came to the radio companies' accounts. Their representatives asked Progressbank to explain the delay in the money transfer. On 24 January V.G. Znayko, chairman of Progressbank's governing board, said that payment orders 28 of 1 December 1993 and 78/93 of the same date were not found among the bank's documents. Radio company representatives tried to contact the LDPR's member who conducted talks on allocating air time available to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. No coherent answer was received. The victim organizations intend to go to court.

Radio Stations Take Legal Action

LD0303115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0618 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS—The Galaktika and Mayak radio broadcasting stations have taken legal steps against Zhirinovskiy: The Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] paid with forged payment documents for its advertising programmes during the electoral campaign, the SEGODNYA newspaper wrote today.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which got four hours and nine minutes of broadcasting time for its advertising, failed to transfer to bank accounts of the broadcasting stations 36 million 719,737 roubles. The Zhirinovskiy party sent to the editorial boards only the copies of payment documents. V. Zagnoiko, chairman of the board of Progressbank, denied the fact of the transfer of money by the Liberal Democratic Party to the broadcasting stations.

Spokesman Denies Forgery

AU0303115794 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 3 (AFP)—Ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy faces thousands of dollars

in unpaid bills for media spots during his campaign for the December parliamentary elections, two newspapers reported Thursday [3 March].

Two radio stations were considering taking legal action against the head of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia after he failed to pay for more than four hours of radio time, priced 21,000 dollars, the reports in SEVODNYA and MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspapers said.

During the campaign, the state picked up the tab for three hours of radio time and two hours of television time for each party. Additional time was meant to be paid for by the candidates themselves.

The newspapers published copies of payment orders signed by the Zhirinovskiy party for two banks. However the papers quoted the head of one of the banks as saying the documents did not belong to his bank.

A spokesman for the Liberal-Democratic party told AFP it was "up to the banks to pay the bills they were told to and that it couldn't possibly be a question of financial fiddling by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy."

Various reports have estimated the cost of radio and TV time used by the ultra-nationalist leader, who won 23 percent of the vote, at between 70,000 and 650,000 dollars.

Russia media charge up to one million rubles (6,500 dollars) for a minute of time.

Last month a rival candidate in Zhirinovskiy's suburban Moscow constituency of Shelokovo lodged a formal complaint of violations of the electoral law during the December 12 vote which the ultra-nationalist leader won.

Zhirinovskiy's election could be invalidated by a court if the charges are substantiated.

Yeltsin Urges Adoption of Program To Fight Crime

LD0303142094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today's sitting of the Russian Security Council was devoted to the fight against crime, a subject Boris Yeltsin broached in his address to parliament.

[Correspondent Vladimir Perfiliev] Head of state Boris Yeltsin led the meeting. Two issues were examined: The federal anti-crime program for this year and 1995, and the German general consulate in Kaliningrad. President Yeltsin said that the crime situation was posing a serious problem in Russia at the moment. There is organized crime not just in separate areas, but in the near abroad [former Soviet republics] and abroad.

The low level of efficiency of the law-enforcing and judicial bodies is one of the main reasons for the increase in crime. It is now the norm that criminals get off practically scot-free as the crime fighting bodies remain ill-equipped for the job.

On the subject of amnesty, President Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I hope that the federal program to step up the fight against crime will mark a change and become a significant social document in the difficult work of the law-enforcing and judicial bodies. I would like to stress that those amnestied by the State Duma will be rearrested in accordance with our laws as soon as they start any political or other activity detrimental to the security of the Russian state. The main result of our sitting today should not just be that we looked into adopting the federal program, but that it will now be implemented quickly. We need to display action as soon as possible to convince Russian citizens that the state is capable of dealing with the social evil that crime is. [end recording]

Glazyev: Yeltsin Speech Basis for Cooperation

LD0203145694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—The concurrence of stands of the State Duma and the presidential address on problems of the economic reform was stressed at a briefing, held in the Kremlin today, by Serge Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Economic Policy. For the first time since December 12, this created a basis for joint actions of the two branches of power in implementing the economic reform.

Glazyev believes that "the work of the government does not correspond exactly to the political course, outlined in the presidential address to the Federal Assembly." Substantiating his point of view, he cited numerous facts of privileges granted by the government to some enterprises and industries, of mistakes made in the sphere of economic restructuring and the implementation of the privatization programme. Instead of supporting science-intensive industry on a priority basis, it was nearly ruined: The reduction of output reached the catastrophic level of 90 per cent. This is true of microelectronics and precise machine-building.

According to Glazyev, it is necessary to insist on the adoption of laws, which will simplify the tax system and make it more rational, establish order in the sphere of tax collecting and toughen criminal responsibility for the violation of the currency and customs legislation. In this case the state will have enough strength for supporting priority industries.

Communist Party Supports Abolition of Presidency

LD0203205694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The renovated Communist Party supports holding free democratic elections to Russia's legislature and scrapping the presidency as an institution. The date and procedure for the elections are to be determined by a round-table conference of all parties and political movements of the country, according to the party's central committee coordinating secretary, Sergey Skvortsov. He published this statement in Moscow today on the eve of an expanded government meeting to discuss ways out of the economic crisis scheduled for March 4.

According to Skvortsov, the way out of the crisis "lies in the total rejection of the so-called course of reforms rather than its adjustment proposed by the Duma opposition. It is evident that a bankrupt president does not want this and cannot do this, just as the stillborn Duma does not want this and cannot give up the course either."

In Skvortsov's opinion, Russian President Boris Yeltsin "in his address 'On the state of the nation' virtually recognized the total bankruptcy of his policy and recognized the existing practice of unilateral concessions to the West as unbefitting."

However, "Yeltsin made these statements by no means to ground his resignation." Vice versa, "having lost a considerable part of his social base, the president is trying not to let power out of his hands by looking for support in the present Duma opposition," according to the coordinating secretary.

To avoid social upheavals, it is necessary to bring about changes to the current situation in the country and find politicians who would really stand up for the people's interests, the renovated Communist Party leader believes.

Information Support Arm for President in Works

MK0303084094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLET in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Round the Clock Non-Stop" rubric: "Revival of Federal Information Center?"]

[Text] The reorganization of the president's apparatus and staff is being completed. The way MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLET sees it, today will witness the signing of an edict on the creation of an Administration for Information Support of the Russian Federation President's Staff. A likely appointee to the position of the administration's head is Petr Filippov. (He is now in charge of the analytical center for socioeconomic policy).

The administration's structure calls for three departments: a department for work with the press, a department for work with television, and an analytical department. Some 40 people will be on the payroll.

Quite possibly, accusations of open propaganda and agitation will be showered on the future administration. Indeed, it sets as its goal not just a mechanical transfer of information to the mass media, but also its analysis and interpretation.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has managed to learn that the immediate plan of the future administration's work includes summing up and analyzing all information coming from the regions. Also planned are regular conferences in Moscow of the heads of regional press services with representatives of the president.

Vesti Chief: TV, Radio Situation 'Catastrophic'

LD0203171094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] As has become known, in the draft budget which will be submitted for examination by the Russian Government, expenditures for the upkeep of state television and radio companies are envisaged at only 25 percent of requirements. These funds are not even enough to pay for the operation of television and radio transmitters. Here is what was said in this connection by Aleksandr Nekhoroshev, the director of Russian Television's "Vesti" program.

[Begin Nekhoroshev recording] This means that the Ministry of Communications, which must receive 85 percent of this amount for the upkeep of transmitters, will be forced to switch off the transmitters because of non-payment. That is to say, from the minute that the government approves this harmful budget for television and radio, we could all expect at any minute the switching off of state television and radio and, in this way, perhaps the last instrument for unifying the inhabitants of our country, Russians scattered across our great power, could be broken.

The idea has already been voiced that this government will close state television and radio but that another structure of the government will open it. These are questions for the government and the people who are working in it.

We are also worried because, taking into account the aggressiveness of all commercial structures, we are absolutely convinced that both in Moscow and in the regions, from the moment state television and radio are closed, great efforts will be made to seize them. In this way we are now all on the threshold of a danger which on the whole was deflected both in August 1991 and October. Attempts to stifle in particular the All-Russian TV and Radio Company failed then, and this was splendid. Now, however, by the hands of bureaucrats, quietly, by one stroke of the pen, something could be perpetrated which even in my worst dreams I am unable to imagine.

On behalf of the journalists of the All-Russian TV and Radio Company I can now request Premier Minister Chernomyrdin for an immediate meeting in order to discuss the catastrophic situation in which state television and radio finds itself. It seems to me that for the time being there still is some sense in holding this meeting. It could very well be the case that after Friday there will no longer be any sense in holding such a meeting. [end recording]

Paper Resumes Publication After Month-Long Break

LD0203140794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] After a month-long forced break, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI will be delivered to all subscribers today. According to ITAK-TASS, the stoppage was caused by financial difficulties rather than by the editorial staff.

Paper Apologizes for 'Enforced' Break

PM0203152594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Announcement by ROSSIYSKIY VESTI editorial collegium: "ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Is Back With You, Readers!"]

[Text] After an enforced one-month break, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI is being published in a print run of 650,000. This means that not only all its subscribers in Russia, but also readers in 114 world countries will receive the paper.

The suspension in publication of the paper was not the editorial board's fault but the result of interruptions in budget funding. Nevertheless, the journalistic collective believes it is responsible to readers and apologizes to all for the resultant loss of information. Naturally, the information that you failed to receive during this period is irreplaceable, but we will try to repay our debts by other means: The break provided an opportunity to better consider and prepare a number of innovations.

Now each week, on Thursdays, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI will publish a 16-page issue. This will make it possible to widen the range of reports on the most important aspects of the federal authorities' activities. The content of the newspaper's official section will also be enriched—in addition to legal and administrative acts of the Russian Federation president and government, we will begin to carry the main Federal Assembly documents concerning the vital interests of the state, the population, and entrepreneurs.

We feel a special debt to those who have been unable recently to take advantage of the advice provided by our RETSEPT [Prescription] supplement. A consultative health center is being set up under the editorial board and the best medical forces are being recruited, and we

hope that with their help we can be useful to those who bring their questions to us. We will tell you, Esteemed readers, about the work of this center and about how to use its services at a later date.

Pages 2 and 3 carry features under the rubrics "In Russia," "In the World," "Subjectively Speaking," and "Official." This has made it possible to give considerably broader coverage to events in our country's regions and throughout the world and to more fully present the spectrum of opinions on urgent problems of society's life while at the same time, as it were, putting the official position of state figures and institutions together in a special section.

Our other, traditional supplements, sections, and pages "Money," "Economics," VEKHI [Milestones], "Culture," "Leisure," "Sport," and so forth are also being updated.

With the help of professional lawyers and parliamentary deputies the editorial office wants to organize consultations on the most difficult and acute questions of protecting human rights.

We hope that there will be no more interruptions in publication. Stay with us!

[Signed] ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Collegium

Pamfilova Released From Social Welfare Minister Post

LD0203172094 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1634 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today issued an edict according to which Ella Pamfilova is released from the post of the minister of social welfare of the population at her request.

This has been reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

No Decision Made on Reburial of Lenin

LD0203165994 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1424 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Moscow Mayor's Office and its government refuted the allegations that a decision had been made to rebury the body of Vladimir Lenin.

The Moscow government transferred a statement to Interfax saying that the Moscow authorities had made no decisions on reburial of Lenin nor about his mausoleum.

In accordance with the Russian law on the status of Moscow, all buildings and facilities on the Moscow territory on which the legislative, executive and judicial bodies are situated belong to the Russian Federation.

The statement underlined that the Moscow City's Executive Committee had mentioned the Lenin Mausoleum among architectural monuments in March, 1987.

"This is to say that only the federal bodies can decide on the future of the mausoleum. However, the position of the Moscow government which defends the historical monument, must be taken into consideration," the statement says.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Aide To Monitor Pace of Reform

LD0203165294 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1623 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—"By saying that inflation will be brought down to three to five per cent a month by the end of the year, Boris Yeltsin lent a shoulder to the government so that it could work for this goal," according to Aleksandr Livshits, who was appointed head of the presidential team of experts on Wednesday.

In an interview with *ITAR-TASS*, Livshits said that the main task facing the team is to analyse the effects of the economic policy, which was ignored by former First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. Experts will try to anticipate events by analysing possible negative consequences of proposed decisions and measures.

Like Gaydar, Livshits is a determined monetarist. His thesis on the theoretical principles of "Reaganomics" won him a degree of doctor of economics. In 1990 he wrote "introduction to a market economy", the first textbook of the kind in Russia. Before his transfer to the presidential analytical centre two years ago, Livshits headed the department of economic theory at the Moscow Machine Tool Engineering Institute.

Observers believe that Livshits will become the president's eye to monitor the pace of reform in Russia.

Livshits plans to work in close cooperation with Sergey Glazyev who heads the State дума committee for economic policy. He said the deputies welcomed Yeltsin's state-of-the-nation address. This provides a good basis for joint work of two branches of power in the economic sphere, Livshits said.

Economist Points Out Flaws in Yeltsin Message

PM0203114994 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 1 Mar 94 Second Edition p 1

[Report by unidentified *ITAR-TASS* correspondent on interview with Dmitriy Lvov, deputy director of the Central Economic-Mathematics Institute; place and date of interview not given: "Dmitriy Lvov: Tax System Must Be Changed Radically"]

[Text] The president's message to parliament is a wonderful form in which to set out aims and objectives and ways of achieving them. Boris Yeltsin only partly took advantage of this opportunity. This is what Dmitriy Lvov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and deputy director of the Central Economic-Mathematics Institute, believes. The president's message to the Federal Assembly, he said in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, fairly fully reflects the range of questions which must be solved in order to extricate the country from the economic crisis, but it does not indicate how to do this.

The scientist believes that the message does not reveal the mechanisms ensuring that inflation is curbed and the production slump is halted, and the method of implementing the idea of state regulation of a market economy is also unknown.

The scientist was expecting greater clarity regarding tax questions. "In my opinion," he stressed, "our tax system is flawed. No less than two-thirds of all crisis factors are associated with it. All sociological polls show that the tax question is what worries both businessmen and ordinary workers most of all. If they escape with only minor changes in this matter, that means the noose around industry's neck will be pulled ever tighter. The present tax system must be changed radically. The tax problem is the same as the problem of the banking system's financial stabilization, and should be given utmost priority."

A large part of the message, Lvov observed, is taken up by the question of combating inflation. But here too, in his opinion, there are many uncertainties and even contradictions between the position of the president and the government. The Ministry of the Economy, for example, plans to reduce inflation to 7-9 percent by the end of the year, while the president's message demands that it be cut to 5 percent. "I have formed the impression," the scientist says, "that the president's figure is an obsession and has no economic basis. There is a vast gulf between the government's and the president's figures which represents many trillions of rubles. False interpretations are impermissible here."

Finance Ministry Drafts 1994 Budget Indices

LD0203174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's state budget revenues will amount to 120.7 Tn [Trillion] rubles in 1994, and spending—182.2 Tn rubles, the deficit standing at 61.5 Tn rubles, says the draft of the federal budget, proposed by the Finance Ministry.

In the Finance Ministry's estimate, by the end of the year the budget deficit will go down to 10.2% of the gross domestic product.

The federal budget's revenues will be 7 times greater than last year, the basic sources of revenues being taxes,

whose share in the gross domestic product will amount to 12.7% compared to 10.3% in 1993.

Hard-currency revenues and foreign-trade payments are estimated at \$6.1 Bn [Billion]. The basic sources of hard-currency revenue are export and import duties and income gained from the centralized credit.

Spending is estimated at 25.1% of the gross domestic product, compared to 21.0% in 1993. Financial support for the territories will represent the biggest spending item (13.4%). The growing financial support for the territories is due to a new system of relations between the federal budget and the budgets of Russia's constituent members. Expenditures for the repayment and servicing of the state debt will also increase to 10.5%.

The share of defense spending will practically not change—37126.0 Bn rubles (20.4% of total expenditures).

Spending on social, cultural and research programs will amount to 2.2% of the gross domestic product. Compared to 1993, the federal spending on social and research programs will increase 3.6 times.

The report also contains the main indices for 1993. Last year's spending stood at 34.1 Tn rubles (75.1% of the adjusted budget).

By January 1, 1994 the state budget deficit amounted to 17 Tn rubles (10.5% of the gross domestic product). The deficit was covered at the expense of the gold and hard-currency reserve (5.1 Tn rubles).

Due to nonpayment of taxes and other payments to the state, the spending items had to be reduced by 8.5 Tn rubles.

The report says that for the first time in many years there was a growth of the population's real incomes. The average income grew about 11 times while prices rose 9.4 times. This is proved by the wage and salary increases in dollar terms. The average salary grew 3 times and stands at about \$100.

Military Issues

Generals Brief Press on Army Reform Progress

PM0203152994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in
Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Oleg Falichev report: "Army Reforms Going According to Plan"]

[Text] Do the reforms in the Army correspond to the realities of life? Are they going in the right direction? What has already been done in this sphere, and what is planned in the very near future? These are not easy questions. Answers to them were given at a news conference held by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate. It was addressed by Colonel General V. Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the

Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff; Lieutenant General G. Ivanov, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Military Building and Reforms Directorate; Lieutenant General G. Bocharov, first deputy chief of the General Staff Main Organization and Mobilization Directorate; and representatives of other directorates of the General Staff and Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation.

The occasion for this was the Russian president's message to the Federal Assembly "On Strengthening the Russian State." As is known, one of its sections is devoted to an analysis and assessment of the reforms in the Army and to what the Russian Armed Forces should be like in the very near future.

"The Armed Forces are going through a very complex stage in their development today," Col. Gen. Zhurbenko pointed out. "It is necessary simultaneously to implement measures to create the Russian Army and to withdraw troops from East and Central European countries and also the Baltic countries."

Naturally, all this cannot fail to leave its mark on the processes taking place in the Army. Not a single army in the world is thought to have tackled such large-scale and complex tasks. And yet not so much time has elapsed since it started to be reformed. The building of the Russian Armed Forces began 7 May 1992—with the promulgation of the president's edict on the creation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces. During this time the Ministry of Defense has been formed, the actual state of the Armed Forces has been analyzed, the concept of their building has been elaborated and approved by the president, directive instructions on combat and mobilization readiness and on operational and strategic planning have been drawn up, a number of legislative acts on military questions have been prepared....

Nevertheless, as the president's message pointed out, the set tasks have been fulfilled in the Armed Forces. The reforms in the Armed Forces are going according to plan. If they had also been backed up with the necessary funding, I believe that many questions would have been resolved far more quickly.

In conclusion, one more figure: Since 7 May 1992 the authorized strength of the Armed Forces has been reduced by 457,000 men.

Officer Corps Over 84 Percent Up to Strength

LD0203225294 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] As of 1 January, the Russian Armed Forces officer corps was over 84 percent up to strength. This was stated by Colonel General Yevgeniy Vysotskiy, head of the Russian Defense Ministry's main personnel administration.

According to him, 24,000 fewer officers left the Army last year than in 1992.

Yevgeniy Vysotskiy pointed out that at present the decline in competition when applying to enter a military educational establishment gives cause for concern. Last year, the competition ratio was 1.4 applicants for every place.

Defense Expenditure To Remain 'Virtually Unchanged'

LD0303115494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] This year, according to a plan by the Finance Ministry, defense expenditure will remain virtually unchanged compared with last—20.4 percent of the overall volume of expenditure. At the same time financial support for the territories will grow substantially—to 13.5 percent. This is connected with the transition to a new system of inter-relations between the center and the component parts of the Federation. But spending on sociocultural measures and science remain at the old level—2.2 percent.

Finance Ministry Plans To Cut Military Perks

MK0303091094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "They Want To Deprive the Army of Privileges"]

[Text] As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned, yesterday the Finance Ministry sent to the Defense Ministry its proposals on adjusting the laws on the status of the military serviceman and on pensions for army servicemen.

Robert Bykov, consultant for the CIS Joint Armed Forces Headquarters business manager, told MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' correspondent that the Finance Ministry proposes abolishing free medical services for reserve officers and retirees (approximately 1.3 million people); compulsory insurance of officers' property; interest-free loans to military school graduates (at a level of 12 monthly salaries); and interest-free loans to officers for housing construction (including for military servicemen and participants in the Chernobyl cleanup operation).

The Finance Ministry also proposes that retiring officers be paid the equivalent of not 20 but only five salaries.

The Finance Ministry is planning to submit these proposals to today's government session devoted to approving the 1994 budget.

Grachev, Patriarch Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD0203180394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and All Russia and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev signed a joint statement on Wednesday, providing for the creation of a coordinating committee for cooperation between the armed forces and the Russian Orthodox Church aimed at reviving the spiritual and patriotic traditions in the army.

The military command and the church have been recommended to encourage priests to visit garrisons and organize educational religious conferences.

Aleksey II told journalists that the signing of this document was an event of great importance. "There are many believers among servicemen and we shall meet their spiritual needs," he said.

Grachev stated that since the formation of the Russian armed forces, its commanders established mutual understanding with the church. "The younger generation's spiritual education has never been so important before," he said. He also announced that in many garrisons commanders cooperated with priests. "In the time from service many soldiers visit the church, while priests perform rites in the garrisons," he said.

Federal Assembly

Shumeyko on Yeltsin Message, Fighting Crime

PM0203111194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in
Russian 1 Mar 94 Second Edition p 1

[Report by Lyudmila Yermakova on interview with Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko; place and date not given: "Vladimir Shumeyko: The Legislative Foundation of the Reforms Must Be Strengthened"]

[Text] The third session of the Federation Council, which lasted three days, demonstrated that the "questions raised in the chamber are very serious, stemming from the state's main preoccupations at the moment, showing what important times we live in and how the upper chamber can strengthen the reforms with laws," Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said in an exclusive interview for your ITAR-TASS correspondent. The speaker described the "absence of factionalism and party divisions in the chamber" as one of the reasons for the deputies' rapid and efficient work. "We don't care where the proposal comes from, as long as it is practical," he explained.

Vladimir Shumeyko announced that the president's message to the Federal Assembly will be examined at the next plenary session, which opens on 15 March. But the deputies have already discussed certain problems that directly relate to or develop the appeal. Boris Yeltsin

said that the time has come for the government and legislators to determine the priorities in the state, the chamber head pointed out. He regards the fight against crime as one of these priorities. The deputies adopted a decree on measures to strengthen the fight against crime in the Russian Federation. Having said that the strengthening of law and order is one of the main means of strengthening the Russian state, that is precisely what the president's message is called, Vladimir Shumeyko stressed.

The deputies agreed that the establishment of order in the country is more important at the moment even than economic reform. They based their thinking on the fact that this "comprehensive and all-embracing problem starts with the question of power." The parliamentarian believes that it is necessary above all to create a strong vertical power system, from top to bottom, so that adopted decisions can be monitored and everyone can be compelled to implement them.

The state is obliged to ensure the implementation of the imperative constitutional demand—protection of human rights, above all the right to life, Vladimir Shumeyko believes. According to him, the fight against crime also involves question of economic reform. In the transitional period, when the old has been destroyed but the new has not yet been created, one must be very careful to ensure that certain legal norms do not become the object of expansion of criminal activity.

The problem of borders comes into this category, the speaker said. It is the Federation Council's job to tackle it. Undetermined borders enable every Tom, Dick, and Harry to enter the territory of the Russian Federation, carrying all manner of things—weapons, drugs. The question of introducing a state of emergency is also the upper chamber's prerogative, its head pointed out. A great many weapons have accumulated in trouble spots, which also leads to an increase in crime. Vladimir Shumeyko does not rule out the possibility that as a result of parliamentary hearings on measures to strengthen the fight against crime the chamber will suggest to the president that he introduce states of emergency in some areas of Russia in order to be able to seize the weapons that have accumulated there.

Concerning the chamber's forms of work, Vladimir Shumeyko noted that its work should be strengthened via the committees. Following the repairs to the Federation Council building the committees now have conditions for more vigorous and successful activity, he believes. In the two weeks that remain before the next session committees are instructed, in particular, to examine and discuss the plan for drafting laws. The committees will do this in accordance with the president's message, which is on the agenda for discussion at the fourth plenary session of the Federation Council. Vladimir Shumeyko stressed that parliamentarians must not only express their views on the message, but also weave its provisions into their work plans. He stressed that Boris Yeltsin's message "can be regarded as the first

program we have had since 1991 for the development of a great state." The laws designed to develop and strengthen this program "must be of that standard," the Federation Council chairman concluded.

Upper House Preparing Response to Yeltsin Message

PM0203152794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report on comment by Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko: "Vladimir Shumeyko: By the End of March the Federation Council Will Propose Specific Measures To Implement the President's Message"]

[Text] Answering a question from a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federal Assembly's upper chamber, said:

After careful study of the president's message in the chamber's committees we will meet to sum up the proposals. This Federation Council sitting is planned for 15 March. Of course, all this will have to be straightened out, which will take at least another two weeks. After this the chamber will submit to the president its proposals regarding a number of draft laws and possibly presidential edicts translating the fundamental tenets into the language of specific measures. We don't intend to seek out things to criticize in the president's message, we are concerned exclusively with action.

Duma Chairman Explains Amnesty Decree Adoption

PM0103154794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, by Valentina Nikiforova, under the general heading "Spring. Another Thaw in Russia?"; place and date not given: "Ivan Rybkin, Chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma: On Amnesty Without Hysteria"]

[Text] Hardly had the cell doors closed behind those accused of the events of September-October last year than the State Duma came under fire: "They have released the criminals!" "They have intervened in the president's prerogative!" Prosecutor A. Kazannik, admittedly after a slight delay, called the State Duma decree on the amnesty "the most shameful page in the history of Russian parliamentarism."

What actually happened? Your PRAVDA correspondent put that and other questions to Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma.

[Rybkin] One has to view the amnesty calmly and without hysteria. The Duma adopted two decrees on the amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Constitution on the president's initiative. The first decree allows a little over 20,000 people to be released from their places of confinement and around 200,000 people on probation. The second decree—on the economic and political amnesty—will set 20 times fewer people free. The point of the amnesty is that all those who have erred are being given a chance to enter life at a quite difficult and critical time. The aim is to consolidate society so as to pull the country out of chaos by joint efforts.

[Nikiforova] It is a humane act. After all, the idea of the amnesty came from the president himself and was supported by virtually all factions in the Duma.

[Rybkin] That clearly does not suit those who look forward to clashes between the branches of power, between the State Duma and the Federation Council, and between the president and the Federal Assembly. But I think that we—the deputies and the executive—are intelligent enough not to organize Russian-style gladiatorial contests for everyone else's entertainment. My advice is not to wait with malicious relish until the pendulum swings the other way but to remember that we are fellow countrymen.

[Nikiforova] Nevertheless, they are accusing the Duma of haste.

[Rybkin] I do not believe that. We did a lot of work in committees. As for the procedure for the application of the decree, we discussed it with the Interior Ministry. The general prosecutor asked for clarification—and members of the committees on legality and security clarified every point. They worked on Friday and Saturday.

[Nikiforova] But on Saturday people were already coming out of jail, in other words they were released immediately. That clearly was alarming.

[Rybkin] But that is just the beginning. No amnesty is an instantaneous act. There are different situations, they have to be examined. And an adequate time limit is set for this—six months.

[Nikiforova] How do you assess the general prosecutor's conduct?

[Rybkin] It is vexing that A. Kazannik has behaved so inconsistently. He knew that the decree on the amnesty had been adopted as part of a package in which the main document is the "Memorandum on Accord," signed on 22 February by all the factions, even Russia's Choice

(although unfortunately the next morning, 23 February, they changed their stance). Now when a mountain of work has been dumped on the General Prosecutor's Office—work that is necessary for society (it must be cleansed and stabilized)—the general prosecutor is resigning. The new man will need time to settle in.

[Nikiforova] Ivan Petrovich, are those who have been amnestied completely exonerated?

[Rybkin] That is a difficult question. In adopting the decree the deputies created an area of accord. In consenting to this release, those under investigation wrote a statement to that effect. For them that is a serious warning. It is no coincidence that the Criminal Code includes amendments increasing punishments which coincide with those contained in the articles of the decree on the amnesty.

Defense Committee Drafts Rules on Peacekeeping

MK0203122094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI
in Russian No. 9, 27 Feb-6 Mar 94 (Signed to press 2
Mar) p A6

[Unattributed report on "Parliament" page]

[Text] The Defense Committee has finished work on a draft law "On the Procedure for the Provision of Civilian and Military Personnel for Peacekeeping Activities Outside Russia." It will be looked at by the State Duma in the latter part of March. Being prepared are parliamentary hearings on the implementation of the START I Treaty and the prospect of the START II Treaty's ratification, in addition to problems of social security for servicemen. The committee is simultaneously starting work on drafts of a military law and a state of emergency law.

International Affairs

President Kravchuk Leaves for U.S. Visit

LD0303112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043
GMT 3 Mar 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 3 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk flew to the U.S. for an official visit today. A programme of the visit includes his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore. Kravchuk will also meet senior officials of the House of Representatives and the Senate, representatives of the Administration and the U.S. Congress, heads of the corporation for foreign private investments and the Chamber of Commerce. Ukrainian-American talks will also be held in the Pentagon.

A number of important Ukrainian-American documents are expected to be signed during the visit, primarily a treaty on the encouragement and mutual protection of investments and a convention between the governments of the two countries on avoiding double taxation and preventing the dodging of the income tax and the capital levy tax, the press service of the Ukrainian president reported.

Documents to be signed also include an agreement between the Ukrainian and U.S. Governments on cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, and agreement between the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the U.S. Department of Defence on rendering additional assistance in the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons and on preventing the proliferation of mass destruction weapons.

Kravchuk will attend in New York the ceremony of the opening of the Ukrainian general consulate and will meet leaders of Ukrainian and Jewish public organisations, as well as representatives of the biggest American corporations. He will be received by U.N. Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali.

Composition of Delegation

LD0203222494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2020 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent has learned that the composition of the official state delegation to the United States was finally confirmed on 2 March. Apart from President Leonid Kravchuk, the delegation will include Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister; Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs; Yevhen Marchuk, head of Ukraine's Security Service; Hryhoriy Pyatachenko, minister of finance; Vitaliy Radetsky, minister of defense; Oleh Slyepichev, minister of external economic relations and trade; Roman Shpek, minister of economic affairs; Yuriy Karasyk, minister of agriculture; Ivan Dotsenko, minister to the Cabinet of Ministers; Viktor Yushchenko, National Bank chairman;

and Anton Buteyko, the president's adviser on foreign policy issues. The editors of almost all the influential Ukrainian newspapers will also be in the delegation.

Aide on 'Main Purpose' of Visit

AU0303081694 Paris AFP in English 0050 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, March 3 (AFP)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk leaves Thursday for an official visit to the United States expected to focus on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament and on prospects for US investment on the former Soviet republic. Kravchuk will "probably" use the visit to exchange letters ratifying the START-I strategic arms reduction treaty, said Anton Bouteiko, the president's adviser for international relations.

US and Ukrainian officials will also discuss the "practical implementation" of a tripartite agreement on nuclear weapons signed on January 14 in Moscow by Kravchuk and US and Russian Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, according to Bouteiko. The agreement calls for a total denuclearisation of Ukraine, which inherited Soviet nuclear weapons along with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. [passage omitted]

"The main purpose of this visit to encourage economic and trade relations between Ukraine and the United States. We are not asking for aid but we want to attract investments," Bouteiko said. The Ukrainian delegation will propose 24 economic projects which are open to US investors, he said. Kravchuk will also meet senior officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He will be accompanied to Washington by interim Prime Minister Efim Zviaginsky, Defence Minister Vitaliy Radietsky and Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko.

Nuclear Warheads Removal Begins—'Reliable Sources'

LD0203152794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513
GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—"Russia and Ukraine have finally begun real implementation of the tripartite Russo-U.S.-Ukrainian agreement "on conditions of the elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine" signed by Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk and Bill Clinton in Moscow on January 14," the newspaper TODAY [SEG-ODNYA] reported with reference to "more than reliable sources."

"In accordance with the agreement, 60 warheads removed with precautions from strategic missiles of the 46 missile troops division of the 43d missile army were placed on platform cars of a special letter-marked echelon and sent to Russia," the newspaper said. On Wednesday, the train loaded with the special cargo is expected to arrive at a plant located in one of closed compounds of the Ministry of Atomic Energy in the

Urals, where the warheads had been once assembled and where they are currently being dismantled," the newspaper said.

The newspaper described the move as the first tangible result of the Russo-U.S. partnership. "Ukraine still possesses around 2,000 nuclear warheads, but there is a hope that this problem will be finally resolved," the newspaper said.

Official Denies Removal

LD0203173194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Ukrainian Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov has described as disinformation a report by the Moscow SEGODNYA newspaper alleging that the nuclear warheads of ICBM's deployed in Ukraine have already been transferred to Russia. The first batch of missiles will be sent to Russia in the next few weeks, he told reporters in Kiev.

Shmarov said that as soon as Russia gives the green light to the delivery of nuclear fuel to Ukraine, "we will give the green light to the transfer of nuclear warheads". He said there was no signal from Russia yet.

The SEGODNYA newspaper referring to well-informed sources reported on Wednesday that a trainload of Ukrainian nuclear warheads was due to arrive at a closed town in the Urals on March 2. It maintains that the first 60 nuclear warheads were dismantled in the last days of February from the ICBM's deployed by the 43rd missile army which is stationed in Ukraine.

Ukraine, Japan Sign First Agreement

LD0203164694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1411 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A framework agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Japan "On cooperation in eliminating nuclear weapons in Ukraine and setting up a cooperation committee" was signed at Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry on 2 March. On behalf of the Ukrainian side the agreement was signed by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and on behalf of the Japanese side by Japan's ambassador to Ukraine Shoji Suezawa. "This is the first agreement between Japan and independent Ukraine since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two states in 1992. Japan hopes Ukraine will confidently travel the road of rejecting nuclear weapons and will accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non nuclear state," Suedzawa stated. Zlenko pointed out that Japan was one of the first countries to have signed such an agreement. In his view, "this document will promote stronger cooperation between our countries. The signing of this agreement is a certain contribution to implementing the trilateral statement by the Ukrainian, U.S. and Russian presidents, signed on 14 January."

A UNIAN correspondent has been informed by the Japanese Embassy in Ukraine that the final sum of Japanese aid to eliminate nuclear weapons in Ukraine has not been determined yet.

IMF Mission Reports Progress on Talks

LD0203174494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A mission of the International Monetary Fund has achieved "substantial progress on the initial stage of negotiations with the Ukrainian authorities on a stabilization and reformation program which may be implemented at the expense of an STF credit granted by the IMF," the IMF permanent representative to Ukraine told Interfax-Ukraine on March 2 when the mission left Kiev.

During his coming visit to Washington, Leonid Kravchuk is expected to continue negotiations with IMF officials. In particular, the Ukrainian president plans to meet with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

"We hope and expect the discussions concerning to granting the STF credit to resume after the meeting," the IMF representative pointed out. Ukraine is seeking an IMF credit worth \$700 Mn [Million], which is about a half of its contribution to the organization.

Agreement on Military Cooperation With Belarus

LD0203163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Ukrainian and Belarusian Defense Ministries concluded an agreement on cooperation in the military sphere. This was decided during a working meeting between Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetsky and Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy in Lvov yesterday.

The ministers said at a press conference on the results of the negotiations that after the Soviet single armed forces had collapsed, their equipment and property had been divided. According to the ministers, there were not enough funds to acquire new equipment, which makes the two states seek closer cooperation in all military areas. For instance, the agreement provides for exchange of military equipment between the two states. However, the defense ministers stressed that this did not mean unification of the Ukrainian and Belarusian armies. Neither did it provide for restoration of a single command.

Radetskiy pointed out that Ukraine had declared its sovereignty and non-participation in military blocks and that it regarded the military cooperation only as a bilateral one. Ukraine will take part in military cooperation with the CIS only as an observer.

Commenting on the issue concerning nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Radetskiy emphasized that Ukraine would carry out the January 14 trilateral agreement between the

U.S.A., Russia and Ukraine. According to the Ukrainian defense minister, the terms for withdrawal and dismantling of the nuclear weapons have already been set.

Foreign Minister Postpones Visit to Poland

LD0203124294 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 1028 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 1 Mar—As the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Information Department has reported, according to a mutual agreement between Ukraine's Foreign Ministry and Poland's Foreign Ministry, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko's visit to Poland is being postponed to the second half of March.

Unfinished Warship Raises Problems

LD0203160994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov for TASS]

[Text] Nikolayev March 2 TASS—It is impossible to finish the aircraft carrier Varyag according to its original design, but it may be converted into a floating airfield, Igor Ovdienko, director of the Black Sea shipyards, said. This would agree with Russia's plans and tactical and strategic goals, he added. Ukraine cannot afford financing the construction of the ship alone. Meanwhile, the Varyag is blocking the embankment, creating problems and incurring new expenses. The project has already cost the budget a pretty penny and it would be absurd to scrap the ship. Shipyard officials are now in Kiev to discuss the future of the ship.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Orders Crimea To Conform

AU0303110694 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 1 Mar 94 p 2

["Ukraine's Supreme Council Decree on the Status of the Crimean Autonomous Republic in Accordance With Ukraine's Current Constitution and Legislation" issued in Kiev on 24 Feb]

[Text] In view of the fact that the Crimean Republic's state power structures have recently been adopting numerous normative acts and officials have been making statements that go beyond the status of the Crimean Republic and which may lead to an exacerbation of the situation both in the Crimea and in Ukraine as a whole, Ukraine's Supreme Council, proceeding from Article 97, Item 19 of the Ukrainian Constitution, resolves as follows:

1. To advise that, in accordance with Ukraine's Constitution and current legislation,

a. The Crimean Republic is an autonomous constituent part of Ukraine and has extensive rights in the sphere of economics, the utilization of natural resources, ecology, culture, the organization of social life, and so on. However, the Crimean Republic, as an autonomous constituent part of Ukraine, has no state sovereignty and cannot establish political relations with foreign states;

b. Ukraine's Constitution is effective on the entire territory of Ukraine, including the territory of the Crimea, and the Crimean Republic's Constitution cannot contradict the Ukrainian Constitution;

c. In accordance with Article 70 of the Ukrainian Constitution, the territory of Ukraine, including the territory of the Crimea, is unitary, indivisible, inviolable, and integral. Any changes to Ukraine's territory or state borders without the consent of the Ukrainian people are inadmissible. At the same time, as is envisaged in the legislation on the status of the Crimean Republic, Ukraine has no right to make decisions on changing the territory of the Crimean Republic without that republic's consent;

d. The Crimean Republic has no citizenship of its own, separate from Ukraine. Citizens of Ukraine who permanently reside in the Crimea are citizens of the Crimean Republic. The Crimea cannot have its own military formations or its own monetary or financial systems separate from Ukraine.

That is why, in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, the supreme bodies of the Crimean Republic's power cannot resolve these or other questions that are under the exclusive jurisdiction of Ukraine's authorities.

2. All bodies of state power of Ukraine and of the Crimean Republic, as well as their officials must be guided in their activity by Ukraine's Constitution and laws and also by this present decree.

3. The Supreme Council of the Crimean Republic must, within one month, bring the Constitution and other legislative acts of the Crimean Republic into conformity with Ukraine's Constitution and legislation.

4. The president of Ukraine must ensure the fulfillment of Ukraine's law "On the Ukrainian Presidential Representation in the Crimean Republic."

5. The president of Ukraine and Ukraine's Procurator General must react in time to violations of the Ukrainian Constitution and laws.

[Signed] Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council I. Plyushch

[Issued] Kiev, 24 February 1994

Kiev Tries To Preempt Autonomy in East

MK0203114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 4

[Svetlana Sukhova report under the "Situation Regarding Crimea" rubric: "They Write Down 'Crimea' and Bear 'Donbass' in Mind"]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament decision to deprive Crimea of economic and political autonomy (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 25 and 26 February) has given rise to widespread dissatisfaction both in Crimea and in Ukraine itself. Yesterday Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, when asked about the legitimacy of his trips to Moscow and the agreements he concluded with the Russian authorities, said that he "does not have to report to the Ukrainian president." Ukraine's parliamentarians and president themselves have long been aware of the unfeasibility of the 24 February resolution. Currently, however, Kiev fears that not only Simferopol, but also eastern Ukrainian regions may demand autonomy, which would be much more dangerous.

Sergey Kunitsyn, Ukrainian deputy and chairman of the Union of Support for the Republic of Crimea, said on the evening of 28 February that the Crimean Supreme Soviet would not adhere to the parliamentary decree on the status of Crimea. In his view, "There is no mechanism to enforce the decree" and there are virtually no Ukrainian state structures on Crimean territory except for the army. The most important thing, Sergey Kunitsyn said, is not to give Ukraine a pretext for "rash actions." President Leonid Kravchuk, for his part, is trying to frighten Simferopol with precisely this turn of events. He expressed his confidence that Crimea would not embark on the path of confrontation, "otherwise this will cause harm." He recalled that Crimea is an integral, albeit autonomous, part of Ukraine, hence any actions aimed at noncompliance with this provision will be illegal. Kravchuk attempted to sweeten the pill, however, as he said that "the regions should have greater autonomy, particularly with regard to the economy and culture." Leonid Grach, leader of the Crimean Communist Party, which is growing stronger by the day, believes that the resolution on Crimea expresses "the ambitions of lame-ducks," but the problem concerning the parliamentary decision may be resolved by holding elections for all branches of power. He expressed his hope that Kravchuk will be prudent enough not to enforce the provision on appointing a representative of the Ukrainian president in Crimea so as not to heighten tensions.

In the view of KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, tensions over Ukrainian integrity may heighten not only inside the Moscow-Kiev-Simferopol triangle. Even at present the centrifugal forces in eastern Ukraine with its predominantly Russian-speaking population are giving Kiev a headache. By passing strict but effectively unenforceable resolutions on Crimea, politicians in Kiev bear Donbass in mind, too. This consideration will inevitably

prod them to demonstrate toughness regarding the "separatists." Harsh statements and resolutions, however, tend to wear out with excessive use.

Security Chief Comments on Crimean Situation

LD0203172894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1046 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A direct phone-in between readers and the Yevhen Marchuk, chairman of Ukraine's security service [SBU], was held on 1 March in the editorial office of the MOLOD UKRAYINY newspaper. Afterward, Marchuk said in particular during an interview with journalists that the situation in Crimea would have been much more complex if "certain actions" had not been taken. "The problem of Crimea and of regionalization as a whole is one of those kind of threats which is of prime importance to Ukraine, owing to economic, historical, and other reasons," Yevhen Marchuk said.

He is also convinced that there are no grounds for dramatizing the situation, since Ukraine has the force to prevent the development of events similar to those in Yugoslavia. The head of the SBU is convinced that only the strategic internal policy of the Ukrainian leadership in its attitude not only toward Crimea but also toward other regions, in particular the Donbass, Transcarpathia, and Bukovina, could speedily neutralize a threat to the decentralization of the state.

In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent, Yevhen Marchuk confirmed that he had a meeting last week with people from Yevhen Saburov's entourage, who had been invited by Yuriy Meshkov to take up the post of vice premier of Crimea. The SBU head declined to comment on the subject discussed.

Yevhen Marchuk also said that the security service has information ("details, personalities, names and numbers") about the fact that foreign structures are attempting to interfere in Ukraine's election campaign, "beside our own native criminal capital." In his words, the security service will make use of its entire mechanism to uncover such facts.

In reply to a question from a UNIAN correspondent about how the SBU intends to counteract such manifestations, Yevhen Marchuk said: "This will be done with specific state of the art methods until evidence is gathered. Only then will we publicly reveal such facts." Yevhen Marchuk gave assurances that "the SBU would pass some information on certain parliamentary candidates to the Central Electoral Commission and leaders of political parties on whose behalf these candidates are running." He stressed that they "are talking about specific facts and cases rather than interference by the security services in the election campaign."

Radetsky Issues Appeal To Cure 'Disease' in Army

WS0203175694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Defense Minister General Vitaliy Radetsky has issued an open letter appeal to the personnel of the Armed Forces, families of servicemen, and the Ukrainian people. The defense minister has been forced to do this by the moral and psychological situation in and around our Armed Forces.

Time has not yet managed to cure our units and subunits of the old defects of the Soviet Army, reads the appeal. Today, we can observe how new viruses are creeping through barrack windows and checkpoints in military towns to deprave the military organism. In the opinion of the defense minister, there is only one way to cure this disease: We will overcome this disease only if order is restored and the Army is cemented by strict military discipline.

Appealing to parents whose sons are already serving in the Army or still studying in school, to soldiers and their commanders, to pedagogues, to wives of commanders and chiefs, and to famous patriots and honorable citizens of our country, Vitaliy Radetsky says: Only together, as were our forefathers, can we achieve the desired goal. The time has come to turn our faces toward the barracks and the Army, reads the appeal issued by the defense minister, because it is no longer imperial, but our own Army with the Lvov dignity, Poltava diligence, Odessa humor, and Chernihiv joyfulness.

Ukrainian Army General Vitaliy Radetsky believes and expects that the appeal will be understood by every conscious Ukrainian citizen, and that an agreement on looking for common ways of overcoming the complex situation in the Army will be found.

Security Chief Views Economic Competitors

WS0203152994

[Editorial Report] Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 1305 GMT on 1 March broadcasts the "Independence" program featuring a recorded interview with Yevhen Marchuk, chief of the Ukrainian Security Service, by an unidentified correspondent.

The correspondent begins by asking Marchuk what measures are undertaken by the state to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of the Ukrainian Security Service, SBU. Yevhen Marchuk responds by acknowledging the difficult financial situation of all organizations financed by the state budget. This is evidenced by the SBU's budget for this year which will "be enough to keep our agency going only for seven months, and only to meet our very basic needs, such as payments for electricity, running water, heating and salaries for the employees." Marchuk explains that in a bid to improve its financial standing, the SBU sent letters to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, Supreme Council, and the

president requesting financial help and emphasizing its role in providing money for the state budget. For example, last year, the agency confiscated 211 billion karbovanets, 156,000 Deutschmarks, and \$388 million during the investigation of criminal cases alone. Some \$560 million were saved for the state budget as a result of the agency's efforts to prevent the conclusion of contracts that would be unprofitable for Ukraine. The SBU chief stresses that "this is a lot more than the organization's budget for the last year."

Marchenko goes on to specify how much money was recovered by specific SBU oblast bureaus for the state budget. According to him, some of the best working bureaus are in Lvov, Donetsk, Kiev, Khmelnytsky, and Lutsk, all of which could earn money for themselves. Considering this substantial contribution to the state reserve, Marchuk says that his agency has asked the state for permission to receive 30 percent of the money confiscated as a result of investigations of criminal cases. This issue is currently being considered by the financial minister and acting prime minister.

The SBU chief emphasizes that this is a temporary measure, intended to tide the agency over during the current crisis period. To corroborate this move, he recalls the recent abduction by a terrorist in Lugansk Oblast of a bus with children. The SBU agents had to collect all of the available gasoline reserves to capture the criminal. In addition, because of low salaries of SBU employees, Marchuk complains, "none of the Kiev university judiciary department graduates agreed to work with our organization." According to Marchuk, this example proves that the financing of special services, whose output can not always be expressed in money, should be executed on a different basis from that applied to all other institutions and enterprises.

The correspondent then says that many people wonder whether the SBU needs to be financed so heavily at a time when Ukraine, and the SBU itself, no longer has enemies. Marchuk answers: "I heard about this opinion and can understand it. Outsiders simply are not aware of the magnitude and scope of the problems that the Ukrainian security service has to grapple with. There are no enemies in terms of the standoff of two hostile camps. However, at present, we see as many threats—and not enemies or adversaries—to Ukraine as when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. Socioeconomic threats are even more dangerous today. They threaten the civilian peace and stability of the state, although I hope we will not come to this. In addition, there are many issues that are not publicly discussed, such as activities of intelligence and counterintelligence.

He continues: In economic terms, the world is a place for competition with its tough rules. The emergence of a new partner in a place where everything is carved up would never be welcomed. Ukraine is a serious partner, even though some may think that no one over there fears us. Nothing of the kind. I mean, in economic, not in military terms. No one is waiting to embrace Ukraine with its

agricultural potential. Because it is clear that if we put our agriculture in order, we could flood Russia and all of Europe with our produce. But there, everything is settled and agreed upon. Strange as it may sound, this is just how it is. We have an immense industrial potential. Obsolete and run-down, it can be supported by our intellectual resources. We have highly skilled professionals.

He goes on to say: But everything is divided in Europe in this field. So, from the professional point of view, intelligence is a normal thing in this situation. I mean, intelligence operations conducted by those countries—and our country, too—in order to know... What is intelligence? This is a state institution executing political or scientific tasks, only by special methods. Although we may not have the kind of enemies we used to have in the past, we have instead very serious competitors that can influence the shape of Ukraine. This applies not only to the policies of our state, but also to specific companies, concerns, and economic powerhouses. Those enterprises are closely watched so that Ukraine does not inflict any damage on them. And all of this involves intelligence, which calls for strong counterintelligence.

Marchuk says: "The present situation in Ukraine facilitated the presence of other intelligence services here. We are gradually moving now to improve our work here. For example, you know that the legislature has recently adopted the law on state secrets, and the structure of our counterintelligence has been adapted to modern developments. So, we do not say that we have military enemies, but Ukraine will have economic and political competitors—enough for our generation and some generations to come. This is the real world. It is highly competitive both economically and politically."

Concluding the interview, the correspondent asks Yevhen Marchuk what topics will be discussed during following interviews with him—soon to be featured on the "Independence" program. According to Marchuk, those topics include combating organized crime, especially in banking, protection of the national economy, protection of national statehood and integrity, military counterintelligence, and others.

Scientist Views Disadvantages of Disarmament

AU0203143294 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA
in Ukrainian 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by I. Nedyukha, candidate of technological sciences: "Ukraine's Nuclear 'Cheapness'"]

[Text] Here is information that was broadcast on 16 January on the "Ostankino" TV channel: "Ukraine will not receive any other compensations except for reciprocal fuel elements for atomic electric power plants." Proceeding from this concise thesis, what advantages for Ukraine can one speak about in general?

First, Ukraine will only receive \$300 million out of the \$800 million allocated by the United States for the nuclear disarmament of the CIS countries. This sum

[\$300 million] is allocated for dismantling the world's third most powerful nuclear arsenal that is much larger than those of, for example, Belarus and Kazakhstan taken together.

Second, Ukraine will have to allocate several times that sum from its own resources for the destruction of the missiles themselves, their fuel filling, and especially launch silos. In accordance with previous estimates, this will amount to at least \$3.2 billion. However, who will cover the resulting deficit of about \$3 billion for the service being rendered by Ukraine in order to reinforce the national security of the United States and Russia, something, which the leaders of those countries do not deny. What about the advertised free market principles, based upon a balance of demand and supply?

Third, if something really needs to be compensated for in full, it is Ukraine's growing strategic vulnerability. In accordance with the information issued by high-ranking representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense that was broadcast on Ukrainian TV Channel One on 17 January, it may be necessary to proceed to modern types of nonnuclear weapons, something about which the Ukrainian president cautioned earlier. This means that it will be necessary to take additional enormous sums from the budget. However, due to the absence of any prospects of resolving this problem without assistance from the Russian military industrial complex, more specifically, by crediting its functioning, this may only be done by lowering the standard of living of the Ukrainian population.

Fourth, such crediting will, in fact, be done for Russia's atomic industry. Russia has the possibility of selling the Ukrainian part of uranium for hard currency and at world prices and, at the same time, setting exclusive prices for those fuel elements that will be supplied to Ukraine. Belarus has already expressed its disagreement with Russia's thesis that the "lion's share" of profits from the sales of uranium will go toward covering the expenditure for destroying the missiles (IZVESTIYA, 19 January 1994.)

Moreover, at the news conference held by Colonel General Ye. Maslin, main expert of Russia's Ministry of Defense, that was broadcast by "Ostankino" on 18 January, a categorical demand was made that all nuclear missile warheads be immediately transferred to Russia as only then would reciprocal supplies of fuel elements be made. As they say, the more you have, the more you want.

On the whole, even from the point of view of the degree of reliability of the highly advertised economic advantages that Ukraine may get, all of this does not look as radiant and nice as the numerous "advertisers" are trying to prove. At the same time, the "Ostankino" TV channel asserts with confidence and optimism that here, too, "Russia will in no way sacrifice its own national interests." He asks: Can anyone say the same thing about Ukraine?

This particularly applies to the problem of guaranteeing Ukraine's national security, especially against the background of the recent "optimistically probabilistic" statement by the U.S. President who said there were "very good chances that Russia will not become an expansionist state again and will not threaten its neighbors." In simpler terms, this statement means that the United States will certainly never get involved in warfare with nuclear Russia, even if the latter does resume its "old" practices.

What real guarantees for Ukraine can one talk about in general, if the two formal presidential guarantees in respect of the 14 January 1994 agreement will expire in three years time?

Regarding declarations about the beginning of a new nonnuclear era, India has already dropped its "nuclear fly" into the nonnuclear "ointment" of the American and Russian promises, having declared that it was not going to proceed in the "Ukrainian direction," also in view of all its accompanying motivations. Therefore, it cannot be ruled out that Ukraine will remain the only standard-bearer of the movement toward a radiant "nonnuclear" future. It is true, however, that we are used to moving in "radiant" directions. In recent decades, we have done nothing but that.

National TV To Be Broadcast Internationally

AU0203174894 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA
in Ukrainian 1 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Mykola Okhmakevych, president of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, by UNIAN correspondent Inna Balytska; place and date not given: "The Itinerary of Ukraine's International Broadcasting Passes Through Jerusalem"]

[Text] The first Ukrainian program was beamed to all continents on 18 February. The only places where it will not be seen are some regions in the Pacific and western parts of the United States and Canada. From now on, every Friday, there will be 50 minutes of Ukrainian Television on the international air. This is the result of an agreement concluded between the Ukrainian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company and Israeli television structures. This event is commented upon by president of the Ukrainian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company Mykola Okhmakevych.

[Okhmakevych] During the times of the USSR, we did not give much thought to using space for applied purposes. In those times, Ukraine did not use artificial satellites for broadcasting our programs to other countries, and there are practically no other ways. As a result, the only television program that has a satellite channel is "Ostankino."

When I was invited to negotiate with Israel's Television (credit must be given to Ukraine's Embassy in Israel for the preliminary work it did), I did not expect that in the very near future, we would have regular satellite television broadcasting to all continents. We are working with the organization "Intergama." "Intergama" leases quite

powerful satellites. It turned out later that "Intergama" does not have enough programs to work with. That is why an idea emerged: "Why not beam Ukrainian Television programs on the international air?"

[Balytska] Who will prepare the international program and what it will look like?

[Okhmakevych] For this, we are creating a special editorial board (for the time being, about 10 persons). The first two programs were made as a digest: information block, which may present interest, and a number of interviews, which will elucidate Ukraine's policy as we see it and not as the foreign press comments upon it.

Speeches by the state's leading persons are planned. Various information materials will be presented, including some concert features. At first glance, everything looks somewhat eclectic, but when we proceed to new proportions (I am sure that we will expand them), we will build our program differently.

[Balytska] Consequently, the programs will be exclusively in Ukrainian?

[Okhmakevych] Yes, they are meant for those who want to watch Ukrainian-language programs.

[Balytska] Perhaps, it might be worthwhile to provide translation so that those who have no command of the Ukrainian language would also be able to obtain information on Ukraine?

[Okhakevych] I think that this might be possible at a new stage, but not now. Approximately 20 million Ukrainians live abroad, including nearby foreign countries. This program is mainly for them.

[Balytska] "Non-foreign" Ukrainians will never see it?

[Okhmakevych] I think that, in the course of time, it will also be possible to see it here—we already have the enterprise "Saturn" with corresponding technological means.

[Balytska] Tell me, please, where are you getting the money for all of this?

[Okhmakevych] A joint Ukrainian-Israeli venture was created. It must ensure the payment and even a possibility of getting some profit (mainly through carrying advertisements). Besides, "Intergama" works on connecting this channel to the cable television of all consumer countries (there already exist such agreements), and if there is stable reception, there may be profits.

I hope that in the future, our program for abroad will be available on a daily basis—three or four hours a day and not just once a week. The main thing is to just begin, and we have done this.

Belarus

Premier Kebich Addresses Supreme Soviet

WS0203144094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1815 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich at Belarusian Supreme Soviet session in Minsk, on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies! At Supreme Soviet's request, the government has drafted proposals regarding changes within the structure of the Council of Ministers and local executive bodies. In my report I would like to both substantiate these proposals and inform you about the government's standpoint on a number of conceptual problems, typical for the transitional period of the state-building process in the Republic. Certain circumstances that are vital for choosing further ways of developing our state demand a more detailed analysis.

First: We are standing at a historic crossroads; there is no way back, but neither have we definitely chosen a new path. Speaking about the crossroads in a simplified way, Belarus has to choose its foreign policy orientation between East and West, North and South. Some politicians have been trying to treat this issue rather inflexibly. In the economy, [we should choose] between unrestrained market romanticism with all its deadly consequences and social security for the people; between the [ruining] of the industrial and agricultural potential and the course of gradual reform directed at building a state with controlled socially oriented market relations. These are the two primary spheres that cause a division of approaches determining the fate of our people and our state.

Second: In the sphere of strengthening statehood, stability, and accord in society, there also exist two diametrically different approaches. One approach provides for the destruction of the current basis of the Republic's constitutional structure—that is, the elimination of the institute of soviets of people's deputies, the adoption of a law on lustration and its introduction into political life. This would amount to a ban on the activities of the left and (?other) parties. Strange as it might seem, there are attempts to politicize the history of the Belarusian nation and to plant Russophobia in the social mentality.

The other approach is based on common sense and is advocated by the Supreme Soviet, the government, and an overwhelming majority of our people. It envisions building a democratic state of law and a priority nature of an individual. This kind of state would rule out violence against an individual; and the ideas of national self-awareness would begin to dominate in society, based on historic truth and in concurrence with the political course pursued by the administration and the expectations of a majority of people. I think that nobody will negate the fact that since the Republic won independence and the CIS was formed, the government had to resolve a number of various complicated problems. It

was necessary to reduce social losses to a maximum, and safeguard [word indistinct], humanitarian, and moral aspects of reform, as well as the balance between the interests of the Belarusian people and those of other CIS citizens and the world community.

This is why we have advocated and will continue to advocate the policy of sober step-by-step reform directed not against, but for the benefit of society. Events and developments in other newly independent states, primarily in Russia, have affected the rate of changes carried out in our country. Both [word indistinct] and Russians are concerned over the problems of civil peace and national accord. We understand perfectly well that if Russia abandons the policy of integration with CIS states, this would inevitably produce political and economic cataclysms in both the Commonwealth states and in Russia. Not only Belarus is aware of threats to civil peace. That is why our ideas to form an economic union and a single financial system have finally become the subject of serious negotiations with the Russian Government, have attracted the attention of other independent states, and have been supported in a recent address by the president of the Russian Federation. It is pleasant to point out that within the framework of the CIS, alienation, economic disintegration, and so-called communal sovereignty are being gradually but ever more steadily replaced with trust, understanding of common geopolitical interests, and a necessity to coordinate industrial and agricultural policies, credit and monetary relations, banking, investment, and finance.

Relations with the Russian Federation are undoubtedly the main foreign policy priority for Belarus. This is a well-founded historic choice. It has no alternates because of the community of Russian and Belarusian cultures, the common interests of these fraternal nations, close integration, and former nearness of their industrial potentials and communication space.

Addressing those who criticize the foreign policy of the Belarusian Government, I would like to underline once again that Belarus is ardently following the road of reform and building a democratic society, and a sovereign state of law, open for dialogue with all friendly nations.

I am sure that we understand the importance of the historic moment experienced by the Republic and cannot tolerate the situation in which nationalism and extremism would prevail over wisdom, and individual rights and freedoms would depend on ethnic origin.

Political monopoly of a separate party acting as a prophet on behalf of the entire nation, is inadmissible. In recent years, our society has received a perfect political education and has a good understanding of rhetorics. People do not want political fuss and promises; they want real improvement of their lives, justice, and protection against growing crime. Strong state power enjoying people's trust is the main condition for leading the Republic out of an economic crisis. We have had a

chance to see for ourselves that in the period of structural reshaping, the state must not fail to control the economic development.

[Words indistinct] that in our Republic, where the overwhelming majority of enterprises and almost the entire agricultural complex are state-run, rapid reform can be spontaneous and not supervised by the state. Control over this complicated process is probably the main condition for a gradual transition to market relations. Proceeding from what I have said, the government believes that the economic situation is complicated. However, our current hardships are to a great extent a result of the high degree of dependence on external factors, and can be attributed to the transition to a new-type economy.

There is a way out of the current situation. The fact that the government has not lost control over finance and economy, and has prevented a disastrous decline in production and a destruction of industries and agriculture, gives ground for optimism. Working at the brink of its financial potential, the government has managed to maintain a social security system.

As for implementing reforms this year, we believe the following tasks should be undertaken. One should accelerate privatization of small businesses. We are planning to privatize about 50 percent of the enterprises operating in trade and services; to transform about 50 percent of large state-run enterprises into joint stock companies; to hasten work on finishing building of uncompleted facilities. One should also pursue active antimonopoly policies intended to reveal natural and artificial monopolies, their division, and the control over price monopolism. [The government should] support private initiative by removing bureaucratic obstacles and their discriminating policies. The private sector should be developed in the quickest way possible to compensate for the inevitably shrinking production in the state sector, to increase the efficiency of the economy, and to provide jobs for the unemployed labor force. In addition, industries must be prepared to manufacture only those products for which there is a demand.

One of the problems that raises the concern of the entire society is economic crimes and corruption. The criminal world is becoming more professional and equipped with modern types of weapons. One cannot help but see that in some CIS countries, organized crime poses an immense threat to their national security and to the course of reforms. In spite of all our mistakes in this extremely sensitive area, let me remind that the government declared combating organized crime as one of its priorities, and toughened measures to counter this evil. First of all, I am talking about the resolutions issued on 24 September and 25 November 1992. At that time, it was an excessive measure, but the government was supported by society and, importantly, by you, esteemed deputies. We appreciate your support and the fact that later on, the government policies found their reflection

in laws that you adopted. Also to this end, was government resolution No. 711 curtailing circulation of foreign currencies. This displayed an understanding that the unrestrained circulation of different currencies inflicts substantial damages on the Republic.

The crime-ridden situation in the Republic calls for a reform of our law enforcement system, in the first place, the Internal Affairs Ministry and the KGB. It is important that their functions be divided to avoid duplication. At the same time, I am confident that the Internal Affairs Ministry and the KGB should definitely be part of the executive branch, providing implementation of the main task—security of the state and the protection of its sovereignty and citizens' rights. Combating crime must be an integrated and uncompromising process. In conjunction with other interested parties, the Cabinet of Ministers is completing the preparation of the state program providing for urgent anticrime measures. These measures will allow to substantially increase the efficiency of all law enforcement agencies. The Cabinet of Ministers was given this task yesterday at the Security Council meeting, which will then be examined by the Cabinet of Ministers Presidium and later by the Supreme Soviet Presidium. There is no denying that [words indistinct] tasks [words indistinct] improve the structure of law enforcement agencies as well. However, this is not the most important issue. The key task is to ensure firm governing of the state, strict executive discipline, and unconditional execution of all decisions by government institutions. For this purpose, one should reform power in accordance with [word indistinct] and the objectives, clearly define the scope of competence of power branches, and ensure their genuine independence within legal constraints. Anyone, regardless of position, who violates the law and oversteps legal limits must be held responsible for his actions. This task should be central to the entire judicial and law enforcement system.

The fundamental issue raising heated debates in our parliament is the issue concerning the structure of government institutions. The government resolutely stands for introducing the post of president being the head of state and the executive branch. Unfounded are the fears of those who think that this move could lead to a usurpation of power and dictatorship. To avoid this, the draft constitution includes, to my mind, quite an effective system of restraints and counterbalances. It is based on the system of division of legislative, executive, and judicial powers widely accepted throughout the world. Besides, one should not forget that our people experienced dramatic changes in social consciousness over the past years. The people's mentality has changed, and their political activity has increased. Today, we have a pretty high degree of freedom, including political freedom. In my opinion, it is the free people in a democratic and law-governed state that are the guarantor preventing the usurpation of power. The legislative branch should, of course, counterbalance a strong executive branch and independent judicial power. I believe that the new constitution provides for a balance among all these

branches. In a bid to make their relations more stable, the authors of the draft proposed that the prime minister, along with his deputies, power ministers, and the president, be appointed and discharged by the Supreme Soviet. Thus, the draft gives the Supreme Soviet control over the government and makes the president accountable to it.

The relationship between people and power are the most important in the process of the political and economic reforms which are still under way, even though our opponents claim otherwise. The law on self-government and local economies passed in February 1991 affects, in the most direct way, the rights of citizens, because in their everyday life they have to deal with local authorities, and not the parliament or government. So they care what those authorities should be like, what powers they will have, and to what extent they, the citizens, can influence their decisions. The law has been passed but we already see its faultiness and isolation from the federal system of transformation. This law does not ensure the balance of executive power institutions. This task remains beyond the competence of the Cabinet of Ministers. However, we consider it important to present our point of view. Laws and decisions adopted by the parliament and government are not only often ignored in the hinterland, but meet with hidden and sometimes open resistance. This is caused, first of all, by the lack of a clear system of subordination in the government institutions, vagueness of competence given to executive bodies, and lack of coordination among executive and legislative bodies. Thus we need a fundamental restructuring of local executive power to define the competence of local governments, ensuring more responsibility of government officials for state discipline.

What will these representatives of the authorities be called: local soviets, or perhaps some other name? This makes no difference. But there can be some difference. Nevertheless, the local soviets should not perform the functions of local parliaments, that is, the legislative organs which go against the laws of a single unitary state. Life itself shows [words indistinct] which should be changed, should be changed. These are, primarily, the following: the adoption of economic programs and budgets; the establishment of a system of local taxation which should correspond to the law; the granting of tax breaks that are being collected by local budgets; the legal use of natural resources; protection of the environment; the regular election of judges, and an entire range of other issues. At the same time, it makes sense to preserve the soviets or other organs at the level of oblasts, cities, rayons—except city rayons—while in the city rayons, workmen's settlements, and rural settlements there should only be the organs of executive power. It is necessary, in our opinion, to promptly reduce the staff of the representative bodies. To strengthen the management potential of the entire executive branch, we think it necessary to elect the chairmen of the local soviets—who will simultaneously be chairmen of the executive committees—to carry out the recommendation of the chiefs

of the higher organs of the executive branch. By the way, the city executive committees are entitled to choose candidates to run in the elections for chairmen of oblast soviets. The same procedure should be implemented when the chairmen of the oblast soviets are dismissed from their posts. The responsibility of local soviets, especially in the sphere of municipal property, should be streamlined. We have many examples when local soviets, due to their specific activities, have stalled privatization and even the programs of privatization have been adopted with considerable delays from the established terms. We believe that the constitution should highlight the main things concerning local administration and self-administration, while the competence [words indistinct] and the activity of organs of local self-administration should be determined by a special law.

Let me now move on to the proposal to upgrade the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers and its organization. Despite the fact that the government has been empowered with specific powers in this sphere, I am grateful to the Supreme Soviet for the understanding of the acute character of the situation. I consider it my duty to inform the Supreme Soviet deputies on the essence of the reorganization which is being carried out. Because we are living through a transition period, we should be aware that the organization of the state power organs cannot immediately receive a proper form. While our statehood is being developed and we are coming closer to the market, there arises the need to set up new organs of power and eliminate old, obsolete ones.

Reforming the system of executive power is very important and is the main direction in our policy in the realm of state building. The organization of the Cabinet of Ministers, which was formed by the Supreme Soviet in the summer of 1990, has already undergone some changes. In the past, the Light, Local, and Timber Ministries, the Ministries of Municipal Services, Land Improvement and Water Resources, Construction and Installation and Special Building Works—that is, seven ministries—were liquidated. Many functions of these ministries were taken over by independent economic entities—concerns and associations. In my opinion, two new concerns will be set up on the basis of the Ministry of Industry and Building Materials [as heard] and the Ministry of Building and Exploitation of Motorways. These considerable changes have greatly expanded the functions of some former ministries and departments. This allowed republican and local authorities to adapt to modern conditions. Though this organization has somewhat increased, it does not look as cumbersome as it has in the past. Its staff does not exceed 1.3 percent of the total number of people employed in the national economy, while in Lithuania this percentage is 1.8 and in Ukraine—1.4. In fact, in 1993, costs for the maintenance of state bodies in the framework of the overall republican budget stood at 1.21 percent, compared to the 1.31 percent predicted in the budget.

The main purpose of reform in the sphere of management is to completely avoid direct administrative centralized pressure on the various domains of economy, to provide opportunities for economic entities to act independently, in other words, to create a qualitatively new system of administration on the basis of global norms. Simultaneously, our task is to preserve state regulation of state property. In the Republic's administrative system, the central place should be given to a ministry. The ministry should actively pursue the government's policy in various spheres and have the widest-possible powers. The ministry should be relieved of operative-administrative functions as much as possible. The number of ministries should not be large, but it should allow for an entire range of issues to be implemented on the macro level.

In this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the state administration, to extend the functions of the ministries, and to adopt normative acts. Therefore, the government has already considerably extended the powers of the ministries and departments, has empowered them with greater responsibility in the upgrading of the organization of the central bodies, the management of property, and the setting up of specific funds at the expense of budget and non-budget sources of financing, as well as the development of new forms of employment.

I will not speak in detail on the proposed changes. I will only specify the most important ones. First of all, it goes about the restructuring of the State Economic Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. This is not only a change of title or that we take cognizance of the fashion. [sentence as heard] The problem is that the present status of this department does not correspond to its tasks, does not allow for concentration on the development of nationwide economic programs, to forecast the most important economic processes, and to implement market reforms. In other words, it should become a regulator of the Republic's economic life. The organization and the functioning of this ministry should perform a dual task: On the one hand, it should provide for the management of the entire economic complex, and on the other hand, it should develop economic policy on the path to market reform. To implement this idea, we are planning to set up an independent center of economic reforms within the Ministry of Finance. Economic researchers, managers of enterprises, entrepreneurs, and representatives of other interested parties will participate in the work of this center.

Taking into consideration the increase in control over energy resources and the need to concentrate the administration in this sphere in one specific department, we deem it necessary to set up a Ministry of Fuel and Energy on the basis of the Ministry of Energy and the Committee for Energy within the Cabinet of Ministers. Thus, all of the complex issues related to energy and fuel deliveries will be coordinated by one governmental

body. We deem it necessary to reform the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations into a corresponding ministry. The increased functions of this foreign economic committee demand that the issue of its status be adequately resolved. This ministry could become one of the key ministries in the sphere of foreign economic relations. It should take into consideration the importance of attracting hard currency and investments to the Republic.

To strengthen the power of the Ministry of Finance over the nation's entire financial system, the functions of some state bodies, including the State Inspectorate of Valuables, the State Inspectorate for Insurances [Gosstrakhnadzor], and the State Committee for Minting [Gozznak] are being put under its jurisdiction. The setting up of a state treasury within the Ministry of Finance, to concentrate all the budget means and state non-budget funds, is very important. According to the decision of the Supreme Soviet, the State Committee for State Property is being reformed into the Ministry for State Property and Privatization; the State Committee for Ecology—to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, with the Department for Protection of Fish on the basis of the Chief Department for Protection and Reproduction of Fish and Control Over Fishing within the Cabinet of Ministers. After the liquidation of the Ministry of Resources, a shareholding association is being set up on its basis. The functions of the Ministry of Grain Products, which is also liquidated, will be performed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs.

A Ministry of Culture and Publishing is being set up on the basis of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Culture. The National State Television and Radio Company is being reformed into the State Committee for Television and Radio. The Committee for Social Protection of Servicemen is being liquidated and its functions will be performed by the Ministry of Culture and Publishing, the State Committee for Labor, and the Defense Ministry. We are planning to set up a Committee for Science and Technology which will be charged with providing for the scientific grounding of economic reforms. In general, we are planning to eliminate 13 ministries and departments. This is almost one fourth of the present number. It is planned to reduce the staff of the central organs of the ministries and departments by 12 percent, or by 800 people. This all represents a savings of 1.5 billion rubles [R]—in the terms of yearly salaries—in December 1993 prices.

Now I will say some words about the government bodies. Changes in the organization of the state administration naturally lead to a reorganization of government bodies. In connection with this, the functions of [words indistinct] and departments become considerably limited and are primarily handed over to the ministries which have independence in the management of their branches. In accordance to the new approaches and independence, which the ministries will receive, a number of branch departments and sections are being liquidated within the

organization of the government bodies. Simultaneously, other bodies will be set up. A Council of Independent Experts will be set up within the Office of the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers. By the way, this opinion is being supported by the Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. In my opinion, this will allow for deeper analysis of the socioeconomic situation, and the government will be able to adopt prompt and precise decisions.

New positions corresponding to the new tasks are being introduced, and the role and responsibility of advisers is being increased. The government's press service will be, or, to be more exact, has already been reformed: Today the decree on the government's press service was signed. In general, the staff of the Cabinet of Ministers is being reduced by 10 percent, which represents a savings—in the terms of yearly salaries—of R100 million in December 1993 prices. The staff of government bodies will be reduced by one third and will stand at—I ask you to listen closely to this figure—some 200 people. I am sure that the reorganization of the bodies of the Cabinet of Ministers will bring new, fresh staff, highly professional and honest people to the new organs. We hope that the implementation of the Law on Service in the state bodies—effective 1 March 1994—will also serve this aim. As for the reduction of staff in oblast, city, and other Soviets, the Supreme Soviet has charged the government with resolving this issue. However, under current legislation, the Cabinet of Ministers has no adequate powers to unify and reduce their staff. Currently, we have a situation whereby, for example, the staff in one oblast executive committee has 150 people more than another. In this connection, the Cabinet of Ministers proposes to discuss this issue either at the Supreme Soviet session or at the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and to develop a unified organization of local authorities on the condition that their staff is reduced by 12-15 percent.

Esteemed People's Deputies! I tried to briefly relay the stance of the government on the main issues of the life and activity of our state. I hope that our approach will find mutual understanding among the majority of those who are present here and, as a result, decisions will be adopted which will allow you to more decisively and efficiently build our state, reform the organs of power and administrative, and create a socially oriented market economy.

Today, we are living through difficult times. However, we should not dramatize the situation too much. We have the most important and meaningful assets: extremely laborious people and an intelligentsia which is educated, highly intellectual, scientific, and creative. We have definite and noble aims: the creation of a decent standard of living for the Belarusian people, the striving to lead the Republic to well-being and flourishing. To realize these aims, the government will be resolute and uncompromising. Thank you.

Kebich: Delay in Money Union Plays to Opposition

LD0203180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The delay of a monetary union with Russia just plays into the hands of opponents to such an agreement, Prime Minister of Belarus Vyacheslav Kebich told INTERFAX.

In his view, the procrastination is not to the benefit of the Belarussian economy because the plants have started to "hold back" to Russian rubles and default on fuel payment. In the meantime, he said, union opponents on both sides have launched a debate on how "one state is trying to cheat the other."

Deputies Adopt Kebich Proposal on Restructuring

WS0203195294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Following the miscellaneous portion of today's Supreme Soviet session, the floor was taken by (Uladzimir Lyokhin), chairman of the Committee for State Building. The deputy attempted to convince his colleagues to logically conclude the issue of restructuring the government, which had been addressed yesterday by [Prime Minister] Vyacheslav Kebich. Deputies adopted an appropriate resolution. They voted to adopt the draft legislation on amending the legislation of the Republic of Belarus regarding the Cabinet of Ministers. [passage omitted]

Parliament Head May Seek Referendum on Presidency

LD0203163094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Interview with Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, by Aleksey Zhuk; place and date not given—live or recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Zhuk] The Belarus Parliament today confirmed the results of voting by named ballot [the voter's name is on the ballot slip] on the basic sections of the draft new constitution. The deputies thus approved the institution of a presidential republic. Does this mean moving to the next stage now—that is, to elections of the future leader of the state and head of executive power in the republic?

[Hryb] No. It does not mean yet that Belarus will have a presidency, because these sections which have been voted on by named ballot will be part of the section on the constitution. And only when we adopt the constitution as a whole and determine, adopt a resolution on the procedure for bringing it into effect will this section, that is, the one on introducing a presidency, come into force. If we do not adopt the constitution in the Supreme Soviet, I will use my right to submit this question to a national referendum.

Opposition Says Presidency Introduced Illegally
WS0203153194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1305
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The opposition of the Belarusian Popular Front in the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has made a statement that the voting on certain articles of the new Constitution was conducted in a manner that infringed on voting procedures. In particular, according to the opposition, the continuity of voting was broken. The Supreme Soviet also infringed on the procedures by refusing to vote on an alternative version of the draft law on the political system, which was proposed by the opposition. "This attempt to introduce presidential rule in Belarus in an illegal way cannot be tolerated by us," stated the opposition deputies (40 persons). "It leads to a dictatorship." By the way, the opposition did not participate [passage indistinct].

The former chairman of the Belarusian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, called the roll-call voting procedure with regard to constitutional articles a deception of the people.

Spokesman Accuses Russia's Choice on Unification

LD0203165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] In his interview with INTERFAX, Vladimir Zametalin, press secretary of the Belarusian prime minister, accused the Russian bloc Russia's Choice of striving "to prevent unification of Slavic peoples." In his words, "hysteria stirred by the opposition Russia's Choice" is the major hindrance on the way to unification of Belarus' and Russia's monetary systems and further integration of these two Slavic states.

Zametalin is convinced that by preventing creation of a monetary union, "the Gaydar-Fedorov bloc is fulfilling the order of their behind-the-ocean patrons who are concerned over Russia's entering the geopolitical arena."

Meanwhile, according to Zametalin, Moscow "sees the way out of the crisis at the expense of strengthening of integration ties with young Slavic states as well."

He expressed opinion that "strengthening of Russia's positions on international arena and possible unification of Belarus and Russia will put an end to the West's monopoly in determining priorities in mutual relations between world community states which has established over the last period of time."

Responding to the question whether the delay in signing of the Belarusian-Russian documents on creation of a monetary union affects the situation in Belarus economy, Zametalin pointed out that over the last few months the situation in the republic "is characterized by substantial lowering of businesslike activity." In his words, entrepreneurs do not risk to take "serious credits due to uncertainty, to be or not to be for the union and,

if yes, then what will be the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble to the Russian one."

"There is artificial manipulation in the increase of the Russian ruble to a hair" (a common name for the Belarusian ruble—INTERFAX) underlined Zametalin. To reaffirm his words, he mentioned the fact of the exchange rate growth of 1.5 over the last months. "There is more policy than sound financial and economic sense in the increasing discrepancy of two monetary systems," believes Zametalin. At the same time he "does not rule out the possibility that such a situation in the financial sphere is being created by special adversaries of monetary systems' unification in order to get rich at the expense of variance in exchange rates."

West Accused

LD0303135194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 0800 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The preparation of documents forming the basis of the merger of the money systems of the Republic of Belarus and Russia is virtually complete. As BELINFORM was told by Uladzimir Zamyatalin, the Belarusian prime minister's press secretary, the political brakes that are hindering the creation of an economic and ruble union between Belarus and Russia should probably be looked for not in Moscow, far less in Minsk.

It is not impossible that the process is being influenced by serious concern at the latest development of the Slav factor on the part of the trans-Atlantic Sovietologists shocked by the successful renaissance of Russia's foreign policy actions in Bosnia. This process, in the opinion of Zamyatalin, is so far being brilliantly frozen by the nationalist Russophobes in Minsk and the Russia's Choice people in Moscow. Their latest alliance, stressed Zamyatalin, is conditioned evidently by one aim—not to permit any Slav merger. The integration process of Russia and Belarus, considers the press secretary, can be interrupted only artificially, but in that event the material and moral cost of the inevitable merger of the two peoples will be considerably higher.

Parliament Chairman Hryb Interviewed

PM0203164994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 94
pp 1-2

[Interview with Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet, by Oleg Stepanenko in Minsk, date not given: "Mechyslaw Hryb: 'We Will Build a Just Society'"]

[Text] Minsk—Mechyslaw Ivanovich Hryb was born in September 1938 in the village of Savichi in Grodno Oblast. He is Belarusian. His father died at the front in the Great Patriotic War.

He is a professional lawyer and graduated from the Law Department at the Belarusian State University, specializing in jurisprudence. He worked in the republic's law-enforcement organs and in 1985 became head of the

Vitebsk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee Internal Affairs Administration. He is a militia lieutenant general in the reserve.

In 1990 he became a people's deputy and member of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Commission on National Security, Defense, and Combating Crime. His wife is an accountant. They have two children: Their son is a doctor, their daughter a student.

On 28 January 1994 he was elected chairman of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet.

One hour before the results of the second round of voting were announced, I approached him in the foyer where deputies were waiting for the verdict of the tellers' commission. "It is tempting providence to congratulate you on your victory, Mechyslaw Ivanovich." "It is hard to say what is better," he replied, pensively. "My wife has not spoken to me since she heard what kind of harness I am putting my head into." Indeed, Mechyslaw Hryb himself immediately refused point-blank to allow his nomination to be put forward. The members of the presidium met and spent half a day trying to persuade him.

Now the scene shifts to the office of the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet where our conversation took place and my first question was this:

[Stepanenko] So, is it a case of congratulations or commiserations?

[Hryb] Commiserations would be better—such a burden, and at such a time.

[Stepanenko] The impression gained from your first interviews and speeches as chairman are unambiguous: You are fully aware of how hard it is to extricate the republic from the crisis into which it has been plunged in the past two years. In your view, what are the reasons for this crisis and what are its true dimensions?

[Hryb] When assessing any phenomenon I usually rely on objective data. On things that can be compared and calculated. For example, in the past two years national income has fallen by 20 percent. And although the rate of decline is much less than in other countries of the CIS and the Baltic region which are former republics of the USSR—its scale is awesome.

If you consider that back in 1989 the national income growth rate was 8 percent and was perhaps the highest in the world, it is not hard to see that the calamity which was building up is hitting us particularly hard here.

The main cause of the crisis is undoubtedly the breakdown of the ties which permeated the vital economic organism. The destruction of production-sharing dealt the republic a heavy blow. Belarus, as you are aware, was known as the assembly shop of the Union: machine building, electronics, chemicals, and other sectors of

industry manufactured end products here using components and raw materials received from many republics. We received 70-80 percent, in some cases the full 100 percent, of our oil, gas, and metals, for example, mainly from Russia. After the disintegration of the USSR the volumes of those supplies fell sharply and prices rose incredibly. Furthermore, prices of oil and gas for our enterprises were four times higher than for Russian enterprises. Added to that there were customs duties, which raised prices by a third. That is the reason for the slump in production, the explosion of inflation, and the further decline in the living standard.

[Stepanenko] All these are external factors, as it were. But there were internal ones, were there not?

[Hryb] Of course. I have said a number of times that in the process of perestroika and reform we lost control of the republic. The old party-state system was destroyed, but a new system of management was not created. This aggravated all the negative processes. The growth of crime, speculation, corruption; the opportunity for the unearned fast buck, which demoralizes socially inexperienced youth above all and undermines society's future; the iniquitous enrichment of some against the background and at the expense of the impoverishment of a considerable section of the people; the erosion of the moral principles and values inherent in our people since time immemorial—all these factors jeopardize society's stability.

[Stepanenko] What do you intend to do to rectify such an explosive situation?

[Hryb] I intend to use all the strength, experience, and ability that it takes to eliminate the causes of the crisis. As for the external causes, it is necessary first of all to immediately rebuild the wrecked economic ties with the former republics of the USSR. Especially with Russia. As I have already remarked a number of times, the situation can only be remedied by an economic union and a single monetary system—measures, I stress, which are exceptionally effective and mutually beneficial. Despite the resistance of the opponents of such integration, a contractual basis for the single monetary system has been prepared and, I hope, will be adopted in the near future.

[Stepanenko] What about the elimination of the internal causes?

[Hryb] Briefly, it is necessary to restore the government of the republic. As quickly as possible, furthermore.

[Stepanenko] What is being done to achieve that?

[Hryb] As I promised right after the election, I am trying to take every measure to unite deputies and the presidium as far as possible. Unless consolidation is achieved at the top, not one of the tasks aimed at creating an effective system of government will be accomplished. And there are a great many tasks of that kind. Of course, some of them are more important than the rest, and unless these are resolved we cannot even

hope to find a way out of the crisis. The most important thing today, in my view, is to define the form in which the state is to be organized. Belarus and Tajikistan are the only former USSR republics not to have done that yet.

The other day, as you know, the Supreme Soviet Presidium issued a statement which set out what are in our view the main measures involved in building and equipping the state. First it is necessary to institute the post of the supreme official who is to be elected by all the people and who is at the same time the leader of the state and the executive. In our opinion, this will ensure personal responsibility for the state of affairs in the republic. In addition, it is necessary to define in law the appropriate system of state organs to ensure the observance of citizens' rights, the efficient development of the economy, effective management, control, legality, and law and order. During this very session we must work to adopt a new constitution and hold nationwide elections of state and executive branch leaders in the first half of the year, elections to the Supreme Soviet in the second half of the year, and elections to the local soviets in March next year. We are convinced that in this way the continuity of power and stability in society and the participation of the whole population in the renewal of the state organs will be ensured on the basis of the laws.

[Stepanenko] Mechyslaw Ivanovich, not everyone supports this program, as we know. Let us begin with the intention of uniting the deputies. The views, approaches, and programs of those who belong to communist deputies' formations, the People's Movement of Belarus (PMB), for example, and the Belarusian People's Front (BPF), conflict on the fundamental questions of socioeconomic organization and policy. The former, for example, support a union with Russia, the BPF is against. Uniting them, combining the uncombinable—do you not think that this is idealism, romanticism, a utopia, if you like?

[Hryb] I am not so naive as to fail to understand that it is impossible, of course, to try to consolidate and unite the forces of the communists and the BPF, for example. But I do think it realistic to try to unite them to resolve a specific task. You only have to reason and try to convince them—they are living people and, believe me, they do listen when people speak to them and try to convince them by means of arguments. We, too, must listen, consider, and accept all of our opponents' reasonable suggestions. Unity has been achieved on a number of questions of building and equipping the state, and both the communists and the representatives of the BPF voted for many articles in the new constitution which have now been adopted.

[Stepanenko] Suppose, Mechyslaw Ivanovich, that you do manage to achieve a certain consolidation of the deputies, nevertheless a unification within the political hierarchy which divides people and society from below (and that, after all, is the only outcome of a course of market reforms aimed at capitalization) will not lead to

stabilization, peace, reliable manageability, or accord. For example, who is going to agree to latter-day capitalists becoming rich at other people's expense? Clearly what is needed first is a concept of a socioeconomic arrangement which unites people, is it not?

[Hryb] We do not need to build capitalism and we will not build it, even if only because with our people we will not reach capitalism, we will not succeed in building it.

[Stepanenko] The supporters of capitalization are touting this idea of yours around everywhere, Mechyslaw Ivanovich: Hryb himself has said that you will not build capitalism with our people: They are the wrong people, bad people.

[Hryb] Why are they "bad"? It is simply that we are by nature somewhat different, we have a different mentality. The Belarusians, the Russians—the Slavs—and indeed not only the Slavs but everyone who has lived on the territory of the former Soviet Union, the majority of these people have a different inner, spiritual core. It is based on a desire for justice, the struggle for justice, and a belief in the triumph of a justice with which the principles of "buy and sell" and "make as much money as you can" are incompatible. Just like the principle of dividing and judging people according to capital and wealth.

[Stepanenko] When addressing the first session of the presidium after your election as chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium you cited a purely worldly example: Before laying a road, the smart administrator first looks to see which way people tend to go and only then starts laying the asphalt.

[Hryb] Yes, that is one of my main principles, people will not get it wrong, believe me. My greatest faith is in people, in the fact that they will work things out for themselves and decide for themselves how they should live. I am convinced that we have still not made any major or irreversible mistakes and have taken a balanced approach to the reform of the economy. I am a convinced supporter of the need to reform the old economic system. It was too restrictive and to a large extent tended toward a leveling approach. Everything was dictated from the top. Neither collectives nor individual workers had scope for development. People were suppressed, the level of wages was restricted. Just exceed that restrictive limit a little and immediately they revise the norms and the rates.

But we need to give the producer and the worker freedom. Of course, that freedom must not harm others or society.

[Stepanenko] You are a supporter of the presidential form of rule, but many people, including a section of the deputies, are opposed to it. I have just had a call from a reader who cited some lines from a newspaper report: "The institution of the presidency tore our Union to shreds. Each president, great or small, took pains to organize his own little nest and promised the people an

abundance of 'golden eggs.' We know what the result of that was. Moreover, it cannot be ignored that presidential rule tends more toward an individualist rather than a collectivist psychology...."

[Hryb] I beg to differ. In the first place, I do not believe that it was presidential rule which led to the disintegration of the Union.... In the second place, there was a president in the USSR even before perestroika. Only in those days he was called a general secretary. I am convinced that, now that governability has been almost completely lost, such an instrument is needed.

[Stepanenko] What about a parliamentary republic? People's power in the form of the soviets?

[Hryb] Soviet power as a form of popular representation after the appropriate improvement, and its supreme organ—the Supreme Soviet—remain and will exercise their functions in close cooperation with the president.

[Stepanenko] Many are convinced that before adopting the constitution it is necessary to decide on a sociopolitical and economic structure. That it is necessary to begin not with the roof but with the foundations.

[Hryb] I can understand them but I cannot agree with them. While we are making up our minds there will be nothing left of the roof but fragments. In a society out of control only one type of process—a destructive one—is possible, and for that reason the most important thing is to establish a firm vertical administrative structure, that is my opinion, my conviction.

[Stepanenko] The draft of the new constitution stresses the priority of human rights over the rights of the state. The supporters of that approach assert that this is how things are in all rule-of-law states in the West.... But is the absolutization of human rights in our country not one of the causes of chaos?

[Hryb] We have lived through the stage of "thinking about the motherland first, yourself afterward." They were good words, a fine idea, but we remember what resulted from the disfigured absolutization of this idea. When a person could not leave the village unless the chief gave him a reference, when he could not take someone who had offended him to court or to the executive committee or any other organ of power.

[Stepanenko] But those were distortions.

[Hryb] Yes, but the soil for such distortions existed. I believe that human rights must be defined as a priority in the constitution. But in conjunction with obligations. Obligations to society, the state, and other citizens. When we organically combine all these factors, there manifests itself an integral state structure in which no one will be able to shelter behind the freedoms and rights of the individual to harm another person, the collective, or society.

[Stepanenko] I would like to thank you for this frank conversation and congratulate you on behalf of myself

and my PRAVDA comrades on your election to this supreme state post. And of course to wish you success in your difficult state work.

[Stepanenko] Thank you, and I also wish PRAVDA and its staffers new successes.

Social Democrats Protest Human Rights 'Offensive'

PM0203174994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Mar 94
Night Edition p 6

[Sergey Vaganov report: "Belarus: Social Democrats Protest"]

[Text] Minsk—Human rights are being violated in Belarus. This was stated by representatives of the Social Democratic parties of Belarus, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Lithuania, Sweden, and Estonia who participated in an international conference held in Minsk on basic questions of social policy and economic management in Belarus and neighboring countries.

A statement cites facts of judicial and administrative persecution of the organizers of a political strike demanding early parliamentary elections, the resignation of the present government, and the formation of a transitional government. After 15 February, when rallies and demonstrations were held in Minsk and other cities, many of their participants were arrested, fined, and summoned to appear in court. The authorities regarded the actions of the strike committees and of the Belarusian free trade union as a call for a violent change in the state system. A protest, which is fully justified under conditions of an economic and political crisis, is described as an attempt to overthrow the power structures. All this, the statement reads, as well as the restrictions on free speech and the rigid control over the mass media, constitutes an offensive against human rights.

Official Says Belarus-Russia Gas Merger Illegal

MK0203130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
2 Mar 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Belarus Ready To Hand Over 'Beltransgaz' To Become Part of 'Gazprom'"]

[Text] It has come to light that the Government of Belarus submitted to the Supreme Soviet a draft agreement between the Governments of Belarus and Russia on the merger of the state-owned enterprise "Beltransgaz" with the "Gazprom" joint-stock company. Vladimir Novik, secretary of the Supreme Soviet committee on industry, stated that such a deal violates Belarus' legislation.

Moldova**State of Emergency in Dniester Region Extended***LD0303121894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] In accordance with a presidential decree signed by Igor Smirnov, the state of emergency has been prolonged on the territory of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian republic till March 31.

As it was reported earlier, the state of emergency was introduced in Transdniestria for one month late January. This was officially explained by the need to stabilize the internal political situation, exchange bank notes, and to improve the economic situation.

Independent political observers assess this move as an attempt to prevent the Transdniestrian population from participation in the elections to Moldova's new parliament scheduled for March 27.

The decree on prolonging the state of emergency points out that this measure is aimed at further stabilization of the situation in this region.

Released Moscow Coup Prisoners Arrive in Dniester*AU0203192494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 1 Mar 94*

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/3/1994—Reliable sources told BASA that a group of persons involved in the armed rebellion in September-October 1993 in Moscow, released by the decision of Russian State Duma, arrived in Tiraspol. According to some statements Nikolay Terekhov chairman of the Russian Union of Officers, released on the same basis, also came to Tiraspol. In September 1993, he organized in Moscow the armed attack on the residence of CIS Armed Forces.

Snegur To Sign 'Partnership for Peace' Program*AU0203132494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 1 Mar 94*

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 1/3/1994—President Mircea Snegur met today with a NATO experts' group, arrived in Moldova to negotiate over the program "Partnership for Peace." [PFP] states the Presidential Press Service. Von Moltke, ambassador, deputy secretary general of NATO in charge of political problems, emphasized the importance of the program in stopping ethnic conflicts. In the opinion of Snegur, European structures should elaborate a mechanism of not admitting conflicts that threaten Europe. "From this point of view, the program 'Partnership for Peace' seems to propose real solutions," said the president. The president reaffirmed his intention to sign this month the "Partnership for Peace," states the press service.

Defense Minister, NATO Experts Discuss Issues*AU0203132694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 2 Mar 94*

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 1/3/1994—Today, Ambassador von Moltke, deputy secretary general of NATO, who arrived in Moldova with a group of NATO experts concerning the "Partnership For Peace" program, had a meeting with Moldovan Minister of Defence Pavel Creanga, as BASAPRESS learned from Ion Mastic, chief of the Ministry Press Service. The sides examined military aspects of Moldova's participation in the program, which assumes joint military applications for peacekeeping, planning of the Armed Forces structures, control over conventional armament and the process of disarmament, exchange of information in the military field, mutual control on the air defense and other aspects. It was decided that Moldovan Ministry of Defence will appoint in NATO structures an officer for coordination of the republic's actions within the "Partnership For Peace" program.

Commission Releases Latest Results of Elections*AU0203125594 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94*

[Text] According to the latest figures released by the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova, after computing the votes cast in 82 percent of the polling stations, the Agrarian Democratic Party is heading the list with 43.27 percent, followed by [the Bloc of the Socialist Party and] the Edinstvo Unity Movement with 21.71 percent, the Bloc of Peasants and Intellectuals with 8.98 percent, and the Christian-Democratic Popular Front Alliance with 7.3 percent. The other political groupings did not reach the 4 percent threshold needed to be admitted to parliament.

According to our Chisinau correspondent, Cristian Nita, in an interview granted [yesterday] to THE WASHINGTON POST, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said that the Agrarian Democratic Party is a center political party and its election victory will not alter the political orientation of the Republic of Moldova.

Snegur Satisfied With Election Results*LD0203175894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 2 Mar 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 42 (532)]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur is satisfied by the preliminary results of the parliamentary elections held Sunday in Moldova. He told reporters that with the coming to power of the Agrarian-Democratic Party which won a convincing victory, there is no ground to believe that Moldova's political course will change. As to the success of the Socialist Party and the "Unity" Movement which were second at the elections, the president said that candidates to parliament from the party, will be able to join the Agrarian Party and conduct the course of

reforms. INTERFAX Note: As of Wednesday morning, preliminary results of the elections indicate that the Agrarian-Democratic Party has won 43.7% of votes, the Socialist Party and the Movement "For Equality and Unity"—22% and election alliance of peasants and intellectuals—less than 9%, the Christian-Democratic People's Front—7.35%. This means that Agrarian Democratic Party will receive approximately 55 deputy mandates out of 104 and will be able to form the government by itself, without resorting to creating a coalition body of executive power. Snegur hopes that the new parliament will be able to solve the problem of Transdnistria. He believes that the proposal of the CSCE standing mission which grants Russia the role of a mediator is the basis for settlement of the conflict in the region.

Snegur said that he means the democratic Russia. If nationalist forces come to power in the Russian Federation, Moldova will be able to defend itself by resorting to help of international organizations, of which it is a member.

The president has favored the unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Russian army and said that it is the army of a foreign state and must be withdrawn from the territory of the independent republic of Moldova.

Snegur called the sociological poll scheduled for March 6, a political event of primary importance for the strengthening of the independence and statehood of Moldova. (On that day the citizens of the republic will be asked to answer the question on the prospects of the further development of the republic and the state's policies—"INTERFAX").

Speaking Tuesday with the leaders of the commissions responsible for the poll in provinces, the president said that it was time for the president to address the nation, the most consistent judge which can distinguish between the right and the wrong. He believes the parliamentary elections on February 27 showed convincingly that the people can make the right choice.

The president believes the forthcoming sociological poll will positively influence the strengthening of statehood and independence of Moldova and its results will tell on the adoption by parliament of a new Constitution.

Snegur also said that for explanatory activities, about 100 representatives of the government will go to the republic's provinces. Snegur said that 310 thousand Moldovan lei, approximately \$80,000 will be set aside from the budget for conducting the poll.

Snegur Terms Poll 'Major' Political Event

AU0203204894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015
GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/3/1994—The poll "What People Advise" that will be run on March 6th, is a political event of major importance "for the present

and future of the Republic of Moldova", stated today President Snegur at a session with factors responsible for its running, a presidential communique is reporting. The president noted that "the people is the most firm arbiter, able to discern the good and bad, as the results of elections have proved." Snegur asserted that the poll will directly influence the social-political stability in the country, being a solid base for the new Parliament which will discuss the draft Moldovan Constitution, it is said in the release.

PPG Leader Sees Election Threat to Democracy

AU0203130994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015
GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS 1/3/1994—From our correspondent: The victory of leftist forces in elections for the Moldovan parliament was determined by the chaos and uncertainty reigning in the society, stated to BASAPRESS Constantin Tausangi, leader of the Gagauz People's Party (PPG). Being aware of the real danger threatening the democratic freedoms, PPG is forced to become an underground, illegal party, declared Tausangi. According to him, having the majority in parliament, the Democratic Agrarian Party and the socialists will have no more reasons to say they have not enough power to improve the situation and blame the opposition for all failures. "We regret much that the socialists are frankly supporting the anti-people regime of Topal-Kendighelean", Tausangi asserted.

PPG Leader: Authorities Asked People To Vote PDAM

AU0203131194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015
GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 1/3/1994—Chisinau governors decided to forgive Gagauz leaders all sins in exchange for their support in elections for Agrarians, writes today the weekly OBSERVATORUL DE CHISINAU (Chisinau Observer), giving a list of declarations made by Gagauz People's Party (PPG) leader Constantin Tausangi at a press conference before the elections. Tausangi qualifies the Wednesday Sangheli-Topal meeting as "a useless union between Chisinau and Comrat authorities because the south population would anyway participate in the elections." PPG leader confessed that he appealed before to Lucinschi and Sangheli asking to organize a meeting of all-level deputies at which Topal's and Kendighelean's dismissal could be possible. "The deputies desire this for a long time but they were not able to act because of the dictatorship of Comrat authorities," said Tausangi. He said that "after Sangheli drank champagne with the criminals Topal and Burgudji," Comrat authorities, Chisinau governors' enemies, changed their behaviour and began to call on the south population to vote for Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova [PDAM]. There is no doubt about the victory of Agrarians and socialists in regions inhabited

by Gagauzians, where officials and mass-media insistently promote the idea that only these formations will oppose the unification with Romania, states the article.

PDMM Official Assesses Election Results

AU0203131394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 1/3/1994—The result of 27 February elections is not a surprise, since democratic forces are so much divided, told BASAPRESS Vlad Darie, responsible for the electoral campaign of the Moldovan Democratic Party of Labour [PDMM]. He estimates that the about 30 deputies of the Bloc of the Socialist Party and Edinstvo Unity Movement represent interests of another state. Darie thinks that results of the voting have been influenced by the anticipate voting of the Transdnistrian people and by the opening of additional voting sections, against terms provided by law, in regions mostly inhabited with Gagauzians. "Now impertinence will be ruling. Serious strikes will first of all be applied to the Ministry of Education, especially concerning the teaching of history and Romanian language," said Darie.

Dniester Authorities Assess Election Results

AU0203162394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Cristian Nita report from Chisinau]

[Text] The president of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, today received Mrs. (Josette Girieux), French senator, member of the Council of Europe, and observer at the 27 February elections. As the rapporteur of the Council of Europe regarding Moldova's adherence to this body, Mrs. Girieux said that the elections were a serious test that was successfully passed. She emphasized the fact that the coming, similarly important stage is the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has sent a letter to the president of the Republic of Moldova wherein he expressed thanks, among other things, for the message in which President Snegur pronounced himself for intensifying cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and NATO countries.

The letter also emphasizes that the summit meeting in Brussels marked a beginning of cooperation with a view to establishing order and security on the continent by inviting the young democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, and the republics of the former USSR to expand political and military cooperation with the NATO bloc within the Partnership for Peace program.

The press service of the president and government of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic has published a declaration which, according to BASAPRESS, emphasizes that the Tiraspol authorities assess the victory in the elections by the Agrarian Democratic Party and the Bloc of the Socialist Party and Edinstvo Movement positively by also stressing that the victory of the agrarians in the elections will positively influence the process of negotiations on the Dniester problem.

BASAPRESS also reports that, through a decree issued by Igor Smirnov, president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, the state of emergency in the Dniester region has been prolonged for a further month. It was to be suspended on 1 March.

Romanian Senator Views Return to 'Moldovanism'

AU0203204994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/3/1994—The fact that after five years since the adoption of Romanian as state language and after three years since the victory of independence in Moldova, one returns to the idea of Moldovanism is nothing but a diversion, declared yesterday to BASA the writer Adrian Paunescu, Romanian senator, who is on a visit in Chisinau. "I cannot realize how individuals that were called restorers of the historical rights of Romanians in Bessarabia, now doubt this right, saying we are two peoples, we have two languages, we should have two hymns, two flags." According to the senator, reasons for such a state of things should be sought, as "something happened" in the meantime. "We should not haste and attack these people until we find the reasons, and if there is nothing more to do after that, we must finally accept relations of adversaries," the interviewed adds. In his opinion, Snegur risks to remain in history as he was the last time, "without hopes for the Romanian people and for his biography." "To a certain extent, I am ready to understand him, but I cannot accept him pulling out my eye and saying he wishes me good, placing instead another taken from a Moscow pharmacy," asserted Paunescu, mentioning that "Snegur will be sentenced to become Romanian post-mortem."

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urges Citizens To Go To Polls 7 Mar

LD0203175994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608
GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] "They will be the first-ever democratic elections in Kazakhstan, the first elections in which political parties and movements will be taking part," Nazarbayev said. He called on all electors, regardless of their ethnic origins, to vote for those who "will be promoting in parliament ideas of market economics, for those who stand for a powerful executive branch and presidential government." He also appealed for support for the candidates he had proposed.

Nazarbayev expressed the confidence that the people of Kazakhstan would not "swallow the bait of shallow carpers, persons pursuing narrow nationalistic personal aims or populists." Otherwise "we will end up with total discord in parliament, the kind we see in the 'near abroad,'" he said.

In his view, Kazakhstan has a chance to overcome its present crisis faster than any other CIS country, due to the diligence of its population, its tremendous natural resources and its extensive export opportunities. He said some progress had been made with economic reforms and that gold production had somewhat gone up. By 1996, he said, the republic would have enough gold to keep its currency stable without large dollar infusions. The loans provided by foreign business would top \$2.5 Bn [billion] in that year, he said.

The president also said it was essential to strengthen political stability in Kazakhstan. "What explains (international) interest in our state and its influence in the international arena are not only its natural wealth and strategic position but also the stability of its social and political life," he said. In this connection, he called for a serious attitude to the problems of migration, citizenship and language and expressed support for the idea of convening an assembly of peoples of Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev suggested making amendments to the Constitution that would authorize parliament to dismiss the president and would give the president the right to dissolve parliament. He said he would like the new legislature to be bicameral.

The president said he would urge the new parliament to launch an onslaught on crime. He said murderers, rapists and heads of criminal bands should be put to death without fail. He believes that citizens of other states who have committed a crime in Kazakhstan must not be extradited to their home countries but be punished in Kazakhstan on the basis of the Kazakh law.

He said stronger penalties were needed for the theft of motor vehicles, burglary and robbery, and that the population should be allowed to keep weapons to defend their homes and property.

Vice Premier Describes Promised Loans, Credits

PM0203161994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Mar 94 Second Edition p 6

[Report by Sergey Skorokhodov: "Golden Rain. What To Do With Dollar Loans and Credits"]

[Text] Almaty—Vice Premier Akezhan Kazhegeldin has told journalists how many dollars foreign countries are promising Kazakhstan this year. The total is more than \$1 billion. But the republic will need the same amount again to cover the expected budget deficit of 4 percent of GNP.

"First and foremost there is the rehabilitation loan, whereby Austria gives us \$5 million, Sweden and Turkey \$2 million each, the United States \$31 million, the European Union \$60 million, the Asian Development Bank \$34 million, international financial corporations \$30 million, the World Bank \$256 million, and Russia \$20 million... In all we get \$719.3 million." The vice premier began the meeting with these figures.

Moreover, Kazakhstan is promised trade credits worth \$296.9 million. Finally, there will also be technical aid, to get market structures operating in Kazakhstan. It will amount to more than \$72 million. More than \$40 million of this is grants, that is, they are nonrepayable. If you add all this up, it could mean that more than \$1.344 billion will be injected into the economy this year.

How does the republic intend to use these financial injections? Some \$255 million from the IMF will go to the National Bank to support the tenge. Some \$719 million will be used to keep the balance of payments deficit from exceeding 4 percent of GNP, which is an essential condition imposed by the creditors. How Kazakhstan intends to settle all these loans is another matter. Indeed, it is already committed to an outlay of \$85 million this year to service credits.

Russia's position is interesting in connection with the dollar euphoria in the republic. It is itself a donor to Kazakhstan. In the first place it actively interceded on Kazakhstan's behalf in the Paris Club, evidently reckoning that dollar injections there would support the reforms in Russia itself. Second, as in the past, it granted technical credit in rubles.

Vice Premier Kazhegeldin believes that if it carries on like this, if the reforms are implemented "according to plan," then Kazakhstan itself will become a donor-country in five or six years' time and will help these countries with credits.

Tajikistan

Foreign Minister Welcomes CSCE Efforts

LD0203163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447
GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe March 2 TASS—Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov sent a message to CSCE Chairman Beniamino Andreatta in which he highly assessed informal attention paid by CSCE to processes of integration of Tajikistan into the world community and efforts made by this authoritative organisation to stabilise the socio-political situation in Tajikistan.

The message forwarded on Wednesday expressed hope for further development of cooperation between CSCE and Tajikistan. "It is not only Tajikistan that is interested in CSCE, but CSCE is interested in Tajikistan as well; therefore, it is extremely important to develop the concept of" Tajikistan being CSCE southern gates," the message said.

Alimov pointed out that CSCE might render Tajikistan not only economic and technical assistance, but help carry out market reforms in the republic and hold general democratic elections in autumn, 1994.

Touching upon the internal situation in Tajikistan, the Tajik Foreign Minister pointed out that the Tajik Government reiterates its adherence to the sublime idea of a law-governed democratic country and regards this process as a long and difficult road leading, primarily, to comprehensive guarantees and defence of human rights in the country. It was pointed out in the message that unless reliable guarantees of human rights are ensured all other democratic principles are pointless.

According to the Tajik minister, Tajik leaders managed to achieve certain stabilisation in the republic and begin the restoration of the economy. Military operations have been practically ceased in the republic. Efforts made to this end helped reach certain social and political stabilisation and the cessation of military operations on the Tajik territory.

It was announced that a nationwide referendum would be held on problems of the Tajik statehood and general democratic elections scheduled in autumn, 1994. Declaring their readiness for a dialogue with political forces of different orientation, Tajik authorities are taking concrete measures to launch negotiations with their opponents in the near future.

These talks are expected to be attended by the special envoy of the U.N. secretary general in Tajikistan, Ramiro Ballona.

Russia's Adamishin Praises Leadership's Efforts

LD0203122694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 0659 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe March 2 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin paid a short visit to Dushanbe on Tuesday, where he discussed with Tajik leaders a political situation in Tajikistan and ways to stabilise it. The Russian diplomat had a meeting with

chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmanov. Problems, discussed by them, included the speeding up of a dialogue with political opposition.

Adamishin praised the efforts of the Tajik leaders, aimed at establishing peace in Tajikistan. He said that Dushanbe had displayed goodwill, and now it is the turn of the opposition forces to take reciprocal steps. According to Adamishin, the Russian Federation agrees to organise a meeting, probably in Moscow, between representatives of the political opposition and the Tajik leadership under the aegis of the U.N.

"Now it is the turn of the opposition to reciprocate, and it should show by its deeds what it really wants," Adamishin stressed.

ITAR-TASS learned, however, that Khodzhiakbar Turadzhon-Zoda, former spiritual leader of Tajik Moslems and now deputy chairman of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, who is now in emigration, said in an interview with the Tehran-based newspaper *KAYHAN* that he does not recognise the present government of Tajikistan and will never stop fighting it. At the same time, the former spiritual leader of Tajikistan does not reject a possibility of a political dialogue with the republican leaders, but he believes the meeting should be held in Tehran. In his opinion, Iran and Afghanistan should be intermediaries. Khodzhiakbar Turadzhon-Zoda is one of influential leaders of the irreconcilable opposition.

Russian Border Guards Repel Afghan Attack

LD0203133694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1110 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 2 Mar—Another attempt to invade the territory of Tajikistan by armed fighters from Afghanistan was prevented during the night of 1-2 March on a sector of one of the Pyanj frontier detachment's outposts. There were no losses among the Russian frontier guards.

Since the beginning of the year, Russian frontier guards have engaged in battles with armed fighters on the Tajik-Afghan frontier more than 30 times.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Justifies Gradual Reforms

PM0303111594 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 2 Mar 94 First Edition pp 1,3

[Article by Uzbek President I. Karimov: "Islam Karimov: We Are Reliable Partners"]

[Text] History itself has predestined Uzbekistan to be at the crossroads of the main roads in Eurasia linking West

and East, South and North. Our republic can become a Eurasian economic and cultural bridge where preconditions are created for the movement and exchange of goods, technologies, investment, and cultural assets.

Amid the breakdown of the once unified financial and monetary-credit systems, the severing of economic ties, and galloping inflation Uzbekistan found itself in a difficult starting position two years ago, which set us two complex tasks: On the one hand, we had to implement the in-depth reforms involved in the transition to a market economy and, on the other, adopt urgent measures to stabilize the economy and prevent a drastic drop in the population's prosperity.

In these conditions, in order to overcome the grave legacy of the past, enable the all-around transformation of the economy, and secure economic independence for Uzbekistan based on historical, national specific conditions, our people's way of life and mentality that have developed over the centuries, and at the same time the difficult experience gleaned by countries that have covered this thorny route, we chose our own means of development based on five basic principles, which boil down to the following:

the priority of the economy over politics. At the same time both domestic economic strategy and foreign economic relations must be completely rid of the influence of any political ideology;

the regulating role of the state as the initiator of economic reforms and the main implementer thereof. Since it is accountable for choosing strategic priorities in the economy and shaping a legal base and assists in forming and developing entrepreneurial and reforming state managerial structures as well as credit, tax, and currency policy and creating conditions to attract investment, and prepare the population for reforms;

the supremacy of the law in all spheres of public life;

the implementation of a strong social policy designed to protect the population, particularly socially vulnerable groups, the disabled, children, and large families. The state can only consider itself humane when it can defend its population, particularly during the crucial transitional period;

a phased transition to the market.

The real economic situation, specific demographic conditions, and the low standard of living of the overwhelming number of families make the "shock therapy" route unacceptable for the republic during the transition to the market. Time is needed to change the organizational, economic, and financial-credit systems, create the appropriate legal base and a market infrastructure, and train cadres.

Uzbekistan has a wealth of natural economic and mineral raw material resources. Prospected stocks of over 750 kinds of mineral resources alone are estimated at around \$3 trillion.

Today we have a program and a fairly clear idea of how to implement reforms in the republic. Our domestic policy is geared to a gradual phased transition to a socially oriented market economy which precludes revolutionary upheaval and the mass impoverishment of the people.

Reforms are not an end in themselves for us but a means of really giving broad strata of the population access to property, reviving the sense of ownership, and creating on this basis the conditions for the development of initiative and enterprise.

The Uzbek Constitution well and truly paves the way for market relations, ensures freedom of enterprise, and prevents the state having the monopoly to interfere in economic activity. Our Fundamental Law stresses that private ownership comes under state protection.

We regard the stage-by-stage implementation of reforms as a necessary condition for the preservation of sociopolitical stability. But it is also true that the very stability of the situation in turn enables reforms to be carried out in a well-considered, well-gauged manner without artificially speeding events up for political motives.

The implementation of a strong social policy is a clear priority during all stages of reform and a guarantor of its irreversibility for us. Over the years of independence a new mechanism of social protection has in effect been created for the population, oriented to targeted support for the most needy strata during the transition to the market.

This has been reflected in a guaranteed minimum wage and pension, the organization of rationed supply of the most important foodstuffs, the provision of compensatory payments, etc.

Attaching great importance to deepening multilateral cooperation between the republics of the former Union, Uzbekistan from the outset supported the idea of forming the Commonwealth of Independent States. We think that its potential has by no means been exhausted. The Treaty of Economic Union reveals good prospects in this respect. At present there is the task of ensuring the real fulfillment of the provisions enshrined therein.

While cooperating within the CIS framework, we do at the same time attach great importance to the process of integration within the Central Asian region. Considerable progress has been made here in our relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Needless to say, by no means all our problems have been resolved, we still have a very difficult life. Over the previous decades our republic's economy developed a great dependence on imports of a wide range of output and consumer goods. The severing of economic ties and the worsening of the payment problem owing to unilateral actions taken by certain circles to bring down the ruble zone are having a painful effect on many of our enterprises and the economy as a whole.

Of course, it would be wrong in present-day conditions to raise the question of literally reviving all the economic ties on which the old Union-wide division of labor was based. It is a question of preserving partnership in mutually beneficial spheres and organizing new ties in order to ease for each state not only the process of economic stabilization, but also its structural reorganization in line with the inexorable requirements of the world market.

The move to international principles of settlement has considerably reduced our once extensive links with partners in East Europe. Whereas in 1990 CEMA countries accounted for around 60 percent of Uzbekistan's exports, these days they account for less than 8 percent. However, we have no intention of abandoning procurements of transport systems from the Czech Republic, medicines and food from Hungary, and certain kinds of agricultural produce from China.

The current stage of economic reforms involves the considerable liberalization of foreign economic relations. It is envisaged that customs duties on imports of all kinds of goods will be abolished, export duties reduced, and a competitive procedure for licensing exports from the republic introduced; a state insurance company for Uzbek and foreign investments has been set up to which some of Uzgoskhran's assets will be transferred. All this creates a good base for expanding our cooperation and for jointly resolving the problems of overcoming crisis processes.

Previews Visit to Russia

OW0303010794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Interview with Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, by correspondent Shakhnoza Ganiyeva; place and date not given; from the "Utro" program—recorded]

[Text] [Ganiyeva] Islam Abduganiyevich, your official visit to Russia begins today. What prospects do you see for cooperation with the Russians?

[Karimov] I have always said and I wish to reiterate once more today that, Uzbekistan cannot see its future without Russia. Regardless of the difficulties or artificial barriers that are raised between us on issues of cooperation and economic ties, and relations in other directions as well, I have always been convinced and remain convinced that Russia and Uzbekistan should be together in the most difficult conditions through which

we are living today. Of course, I am also convinced that there will be prosperity which we will both share.

It is difficult to specify the directions in which we can cooperate. The fact is the directions and forms of cooperation as well as their depth are so boundless that it is difficult to speak about some specific direction. Today, at every step we feel the breakdown in economic ties, difficulties in economic relations, as well as on questions of payments, more so since we introduced our own currency. Every day, at every turn, and at every step we feel that we cannot live without one another. I would once more like to emphasize the significance of our visit. I am confident the hopes which the Russian and Uzbek people place on us, on our meeting, and on the signing of documents which we are counting on, will be invariably justified.

[Ganiyeva] Islam Abduganiyevich, very briefly, what documents will be signed as a result of this visit?

[Karimov] First of all there will be the document on deepening economic integration in relations between Russia and Uzbekistan. Second there will be the document on general guidelines for deepening all-around cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan. The third document will be on cooperation in military technical spheres.

Rejects Russians on Dual Citizenship

PM0303093794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "I. Karimov Promises Not To Tolerate Discrimination"]

[Text] "Uzbekistan has no future without Russia," Uzbekistan President I. Karimov stated while on an official visit to Moscow. Confirmation of this is the package of documents signed in the Kremlin by B. Yeltsin and I. Karimov.

The key document among them is the Russian-Uzbek Declaration, noting the principles of friendly relations between the two countries and a mutual interest in developing bilateral links. The spectrum of these is broad, and it is elaborated in detail in the economic and military treaties. But this list lacks an extremely important document which is vital for guaranteeing the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Uzbekistan. It was learned that I. Karimov is not as yet prepared to sign the treaty on dual citizenship proposed by Russia. But he did give the Russian president assurances that he will not tolerate human rights infringements on ethnic grounds.

Armenia

Spokesman Hopeful on Conflict Resolution

LD0203181494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The spokesman for the Armenian President Amasiya Oganessian believes that there is a real possibility to discontinue the Karabakh conflict. In an interview with Interfax he welcomed the positive reaction by the conflicting sides to the mediatory role of Russia which provides a ceasefire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict on March 1 in line with the four-partite agreement.

Oganessian believes that Russia's mediation goes in line with the CSCE efforts. He said that the main thing today is to achieve a lasting ceasefire, to withdraw the armed units of the conflicting sides. The spokesman said that the mechanism to provide security for the population of Nagorno Karabakh and the non-resumption of the hostilities will be worked out during further talks. Oganessian expressed hope that the initiative will establish a long-awaited peace in the region.

A spokesman for the defence army of Nagorno Karabakh has told Interfax that, contrary to the ceasefire agreement, Azeri troops fired at Karabakh positions Tuesday. Obeying the command's order on ceasefire, Karabakh troops did not retaliate.

'Sudden' Azerbaijani Offensive Launched

NC0303112194 Yerevan SNARK in English 0848 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 3 (SNARK)—This morning, at 5.00 a.m., Azeris' troops being supported by a great amount of tanks and other military hardware, launched an attack in Fizuli direction, at the southern-east of the Karabakh front. Press-Service of the Karabakh Defense Army told SNARK. A sudden character of the offensive let the attackers break the front defense borders of the Karabakh defenders.

According to the same source of information, the Karabakh troops should follow the order to neutralize the enemy and come to the initial positions. Hard clashes are going on, by 11.00 a.m. Thus, during the period of last three days the Azerbaijani side currently violated the armistice achieved under the Russian Defense Ministry's mediation from 1st of March.

Shelling Despite Cease-Fire

LD0203201294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Despite the agreement on a ceasefire in Karabakh from 1 March, hostilities in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict area are continuing. According to reports from

Stepanakert, during the past 24 hours the Azerbaijani side has repeatedly shelled the positions of Karabakh forces in the north of Mardakertskiy rayon. For its part, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports artillery bombardments of inhabited localities in a number of rayons in Azerbaijan. According to information from Baku, battles from entrenched positions took place from first thing this morning on all sectors of the front.

Azerbaijan

Russian Army Reportedly Enters Azerbaijan Today

NC0203191094 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian Army is reported to have entered Azerbaijani territory this morning. Russia is said to have entered Azerbaijan in accordance with an agreement concluded with Baku, and to have established security zones.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] According to a report in the Russian newspaper IZVESTIYA, the aforesaid agreement was concluded following talks between the Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia's special representative on Nagorno-Karabakh. The agreement envisages the establishment of 35 control points in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zones by the Russian troops. The Karabakh Armenians will also have observers at these control points. The agreement also provides for the phased withdrawal of the Armenians from the occupied lands. In his previous statements, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev had said that Russian soldiers would definitely not be allowed to enter Azerbaijan. [end recording]

Aliyev Suggests Russian Envoys 'Perfect' Plan

NC0203140594 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 1) TURAN—This noon President Aliyev met with Deputy Defense Minister of Russian Federation, Colonel-General, Kondratyev and Special Envoy of Russian President, Kazimirov.

Journalists were not permitted to cover the meeting. The President's staff told TURAN that, "Russia has brought a new version of a settlement plan for the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict which contradicts the interests of Azerbaijan. Moreover, this version does not coincide with the programme of the settlement of the conflict that was proposed by the CSCE". The same source reports that "President Aliyev expressed his opinions and suggested that Kondratyev and Kazimirov perfect the Russian version". Kazimirov and Kondratyev are expected to return to Baku with a final version for a settlement plan.

Further on Discussions

LD0203181694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608
GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Aliyev had private talks in Baku on Tuesday with Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's special envoy to the talks on Karabakh, and with Georgiy Kondratiyev, a Russian Defence Minister's Assistant. In an interview with Interfax, Aliyev's spokesman Tofik Abbasov has described the talks as productive. In his words, the Russians were familiarized with Baku's attitude toward a settlement. He said that Moscow's plan for a settlement took Azerbaijan's view only partially into account.

In his words, Aliyev wants the belligerents to stop fire immediately, withdraw their troops, get down to negotiations. However, all these steps should be backed up by the pull out of Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani lands, the guaranteed return of refugees to Karabakh and other seized territories, and their subsequent safety.

Asked by Interfax whether Baku agrees to cease fire this month in line with the protocol signed in Moscow on February 18 by the defence ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan with a Karabakh representative through Russia's mediation, Abbasov explained that these documents are not binding but are only a document of intent, which could take effect only after a presidential visa.

So far Aliyev has not signed the accords, but, as Abbasov believes, Azerbaijan's official consent to a truce is possible. IF Note: According to the Moscow protocol, a cease-fire in Karabakh is to be followed by a disengagement of troops by the warring sides and by a pull out of military hardware from the zone of fighting. Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Karabakh are to post inspectors in the corridor that will form to monitor compliance with the protocol. 35 mixed monitoring teams are to be deployed in three zones, including the Kelbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Jebail, and Zangelan regions of Azerbaijan. Food will be supplied to Karabakh through the Lachin Pass. Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev warned that if this accord on a settlement in Karabakh were wrecked, he would resign as a mediator.

Aliyev Reiterates Azeri Position on Conflict

NC0203140694 Baku TURAN in English 1119 GMT 2
Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 1) TURAN—Today, President Aliyev received the delegation of the CSCE Minsk Group headed by Jan Eliasson.

Addressing the delegation, President Aliyev said that Azerbaijan supports a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the framework of the UNO and the CSCE. "Though all previous attempts by the CSCE to settle the conflict resulted in failure, we still

hope that the Minsk Group will continue its efforts regarding the settlement of the conflict".

President Aliyev mentioned that Azerbaijan's conditions remain the same. Armenia must withdraw its troops from all occupied territories and only after that can we begin negotiations concerning the status of Nagorno Karabakh.

Jan Eliasson mentioned that the "settlement of the conflict must be just and based on the principles of international norms". Eliasson said that when preparing for his mission, he visited Ankara and Moscow and discussed the steps on the settlement of the conflict there as well. In addition, he said that "we have to move step by step. The first step is a cease-fire, a withdrawal of troops from occupied territories and the resumption of communication and beginning of talks concerning political settlement".

Commentary Views Aliyev Activity Abroad

NC0303110394 Baku Radio Baku International Service
in Azeri 1300 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev's visit to Britain attracted international attention. His visit is important in terms of exposing the true nature of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

President Aliyev delivered a speech in the Institute for International Relations. He explained issues relating to Azerbaijan's independence, the new stage in relations between Azerbaijan and Britain, Azerbaijan's new state structure, and the Republic's new foreign policy. Geydar Aliyev also explained in detail Armenia's aggressive war against Azerbaijan. Several members of his audience asked him questions on various issues. We want to brief you on the questions and Aliyev's replies. One question was as follows: President Ter-Petrosyan said, when he visited this country two weeks ago, that the Azerbaijani Government is reluctant to guarantee the security of Armenians in Karabakh. He stressed that the Armenians in Karabakh are struggling for their security. Can you comment on that?

Aliyev replied: The information Ter-Petrosyan has conveyed to you is wrong. I stress that Azerbaijan fully guarantees the security of the Armenian people in Karabakh. The Armenian military forces have occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory. They must withdraw. Only after Armenia's withdrawal can the issue of guaranteeing the Armenian people's security be discussed. A war is being fought on Azerbaijan's territory.

Another question was: The Armenian and Azerbaijani people have been involved in bloody disputes since the ninth century. Can't the two sides make territorial concessions. For example, has any proposal been made in the talks between the two sides to join Karabakh with

Armenia and the area between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and Azerbaijan with your republic? Aliyev gave a very clear reply. He said: No one knows how long the dispute has continued between the two sides. But I don't believe we need to study the history of the region. A glance at historic facts does reveal that part of Armenia belonged to Azerbaijan in the past. I can point to the territory that belonged to Azerbaijan on a map. It is known as Zangezur. That area belonged to Azerbaijan in the past. Zangezur is a historic part of Azerbaijan. It was transferred to the Armenians in 1920. In short, a glance at history will reveal that the Armenians must return many things to Azerbaijan. We covet no part of Armenia's territory.

Aliyev was asked: A glance at history will reveal that [word indistinct] countries have the right to outline their views and voice their demands. But everyone knows that the dispute began after former President Gorbachev sent Aganbegyan to Paris. He informed the Armenians in Paris that Karabakh must be united with Armenia. A dispute with the Armenians in Azerbaijan did not exist before then. It seems that Moscow and the local residents in Karabakh must be blamed for the dispute. If that is the case, then they must be blamed for the war. Can you assess this? Aliyev replied: The people of Armenia and Azerbaijan have had friendly relations and existed peacefully for decades. True, the academician Aganbegyan said in Paris in November 1987 that Karabakh must be united with Armenia. He also said that Gorbachev gave his consent. That kindled the bloody war. History will blame those who are responsible for the dispute, regardless of who they are. They will be tried by the people soon. The claim that the Armenians in Karabakh alone are waging a war against Azerbaijan is wrong. The Karabakh population is not even 100,000 people. How can 100,000 people, including the elderly, women, and children, carry out combat operations? How can 100,000 Armenians force 1 million Azerbaijani people to become refugees? Undoubtedly, the issue is Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

There is another question that our listeners will find interesting: Can you comment on how you assessed Iran's proposal to mediate? We hope you can also assess Iran's relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan. Has Azerbaijan achieved progress in its policy on Iran? Aliyev replied: Normal relations exist between Azerbaijan and Iran. Due to the policy maintained by the former Azerbaijani Administration, our relations could not be described as normal until recently. No problem exists right now. Iran and Azerbaijan have established very favorable relations. So Iran has revealed that it can mediate between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Iran has appealed to Armenia in that regard. But we are convinced that mediation by one country cannot be successful in such a complex situation. The effort by international organizations must be united. We have rejected no mediation effort by any country.

Dear listeners, we hope the war will end quickly, that peace and security will be established, and that the

Armenian occupiers will withdraw from the occupied territories, but Armenia has not [word indistinct]. President Geydar Aliyev's visit to France and Britain has enabled the Western countries to establish the identity of the aggressor. Misleading people is no longer possible.

Army Reportedly Breaks Through Karabakh Lines
LD0303110694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow March 3 TASS - The Azerbaijan Army units backed by armour and artillery launched an attack Thursday morning and broke through the Karabakh defence lines advancing towards the town of Fizuli. According to a source in the Karabakh administration, both sides suffer considerable losses while the Karabakh forces try to neutralize the enemy and push it back to the initial position. A Karabakh official has accused Azerbaijan of violating the Russia-brokered ceasefire from March 1.

Karabakh Accuses Azeris of Breaking Cease-Fire
LD0203135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—During the last 24 hours the Azerbaijani side has again violated the armistice mediated by the Russian defense minister, the NKR's [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] information and press department told ITAR-TASS today.

Quoting the press service of the NKR defense army, it said that during the 24-hour period, in spite of the cease-fire agreement which came into force on 1 March, Azerbaijani artillery repeatedly shelled Karabakh defensive positions in the north of Mardakertskiy Rayon. Last night, the same source says, Azerbaijani infantry attacked Karabakh positions at the village of Berdashen in Martuninskiy Rayon. The attack was beaten off. This morning positions along the line between the villages of Dastakert and Tonashen in Mardakertskiy rayon were also shelled. In view of this Stepanakert fears that the other side may use the armistice to prepare for a new, large-scale offensive. The command of the NKR defense army has instructed its forces not to retaliate, if possible.

Karabakh Concerned on Baku Joining Partnership for Peace

LD0203135194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Karen Baburyan, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, expressed concern due to Azerbaijan's wish to join the NATO program Partnership for Peace. In his letter to NATO General Secretary Manfred Werner, sent Tuesday, Baburyan asks to take into consideration the fact that

"Azerbaijan's leadership does not intend to reject its aggressive policy" while considering this issue.

As Baburyan said, Baku's torpedoing of the CSCE peaceful initiatives and other peacemaking efforts aimed at the settlement of this conflict testifies to this fact. "We are especially concerned over Baku's attempt to internationalize the conflict, involving extremist forces into it," emphasizes the letter. Azerbaijan's joining the NATO Partnership for Peace program without the policy of this state changing can discredit noble goals, aggravate the situation in this region, and could lead, in general, to undesirable consequences, concludes the message.

No Results from Moscow-Baku Consultations

LD0203164994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The closed negotiations between Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and the Russian delegation ended in Baku on Tuesday with no concrete results. The Russian delegation included the Russian president's envoy Vladimir Kazimirov and Deputy Russian Defense Military Georgiy Kondratyev.

According to well-informed sources close to the president's office, the Azerbaijani party pointed out that the formula of settlement being worked out during the negotiations did not pay appropriate attention to the Azerbaijani position. For instance, no concrete terms for withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied Azerbaijani territories were mentioned.

The Azerbaijani president stressed that Baku stood for immediate ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, for troop withdrawal and for negotiations. However, he believes this must be carried out along with the Armenian troop withdrawal and return of refugees to these regions. Azerbaijan also seeks guarantees for security of returning refugees.

Police Seize Popular Front Headquarters

NC0203214494 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, March 2 (TURAN)—This morning police armed with machine guns continued to control the building of the headquarter of the PFA [Popular Front of Azerbaijan]. Employees of the PFA have still not been permitted to enter the building. The order was given by Mr. Allahyarov, the Chief of Baku's Sabail District department of police.

Yesterday, the police searched the building for the entire day. According to the Deputy Chairman of the PFA, Arif Aliyev, all doors and most furniture were damaged by the police. Moreover, all telephones and computers were stolen.

Nakhichevan's sources told TURAN that yesterday the police suggested that the employees of the Nakhichevani branch of the PFA should leave the building. The same

sources report that a special regiment of police was sent to the Ordubadskiy Region in Nakhichevan. As is known, presently the leader of the PFA, Abulfaz Elchibey, lives near there. All those facts cause further tension in Nakhichevan.

Meanwhile, the opposition is still subjected to persecution in Baku. This morning, the policemen removed the employees of Nasimi District branch of the PFA from their building. At the same time, official mass media waged a smear campaign against the opposition. "The enemies of the Azerbaijani nation must be punished", reports Azeri television.

PFA Member's Apartment Searched 'Illegally'

NC0203215494 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 2 Mar 94

["Illegal Search in PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan] Member's Flat"—TURAN headline]

[Text] Baku, March 2 (TURAN)—Yesterday in the Ismaili district of the republic in the flat of the National Deputy of Azerbaijan Tahir Kerimli, the former chairman of the Supreme Court, a search was conducted by the local police. Notifying TURAN agency, Mr. Kerimli stressed that the police searching his flat had no warrant from the procurator's office permitting the search. According to him, the search took place at 2:00 a.m. The police insulted the members of his family. He also noted that as a result of the search a few bullets belonging to his hunting rifle and a kitchen knife were confiscated. Kerimli sees this action as the violation of his civil rights and his rights as a deputy.

Security Ministry Does 'Not Confirm' PFA Planned Uprising

NC0203221294 Baku TURAN in English 1704 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, March 2 (TURAN)—The Press Service of the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan did not confirm the statement made by the Procurator General, Ali Omarov. The statement says that the Popular [People's] Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] scheduled a military uprising for March 18, 1994.

The press service of the Ministry of National Security told TURAN that they do not have such information. Due to the complexities involved, TURAN's correspondent asked the press service to obtain detailed information from the Ministry of National Security concerning the "state coup".

An employee of press service, Elshad Isayev, did not confirm the statement of the Procurator General. The representatives of the Ministry of National Security suggested that TURAN Agency should ask the Procurator's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs since criminal proceedings fall under the aegis of those Ministries.

Georgia

Russian Ministry To Control Actions in Georgia

LD0203172694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1530 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 2 Mar—According to IBERIA NEWS AGENCY a process of reorganization has been started at the Georgian Defense Ministry. The number of forces will gradually be cut and some structures abolished. All military actions will be controlled by the Russian Defense Ministry and, in particular, the command of the Russian military units deployed in the Transcaucasus.

Chanturia Challenges Shevardnadze to TV Debate

LD0203185394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1530 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi—The press center of the National Democratic Party (NDP) of Georgia gave IBERIA NEWS AGENCY a statement by NDP chairman Giorgi Chanturia, which says:

"The grave situation in Georgia, in particular the parliament's unlawful decision on 1 March with regard to Georgia joining the CIS, has stripped the Georgian people and the whole of our population of every illusion: Georgia is being voluntarily dragged into the foundation of the new Russian empire at a phenomenal speed.

"In connection with this and other issues, I resort to the widely spread practice in the West and am challenging the head of state Eduard Shevardnadze to live television debates.

"As on the eve of the visit by the head of state to the United States, when it became physically possible to adopt hastily an unlawful resolution, then I consider that there will also be time to hold television debates between us, provided that the head of state, beside having arguments, has the wish to participate in debates."

Shevardnadze on Agro-Industrial Issues Committee

LD0203191594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Edict by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze on setting up a republican committee to resolve issues connected with the agro-industrial complex]

[Excerpts] In order to review the issues connected with the agro-industrial complex and resolve them in good time:

a. A republican committee is to be established with the following composition: Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia to be chairman of the committee; Roin Liparteliani, chairman of the Georgian parliament's agrarian commission, to be deputy chairman of the committee. [passage omitted]

b. The committee is regularly to discuss supplying agriculture with the raw material from the processing industry; discuss the issues connected with the implementation of interstate responsibilities for supplying the agricultural complex with lubricant materials, minerals, pesticides, and other materials, and supplying the state with foodstuffs; and discuss the formation of state resources, the improvement of the criminal situation in the republic, getting the country out of the crisis, and other problems connected with the work of the committee. The committee is to map out and resolve operationally the measures for overcoming the abovementioned matters.

c. Ministries, departments, establishments, organizations, and the bodies of the authorities are to carry out the resolutions adopted by the committee.

[signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

Sabotage Incident on Railroad Bridge

LD0203213694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] According to reports from SAKINFORM [Georgian news agency], at 0325 on 2 March unidentified perpetrators blew up the 70 meter-long Imiri railroad bridge between Tsereteli and Shulaveri in Marneuli rayon. Traffic has been temporarily suspended. An investigation has been launched into the incident.

Estonia

Russian Negotiator Reaffirms Post-War Border

WS0203210494 Tallinn BNS in English 2004 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 02, BNS—The state border between Estonia and Russia runs along the present so-called administrative border, Russia's chief negotiator Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin stated at a press conference today.

The Russian diplomat said his country's position is based on the U.N. resolutions and documents as well as the final act of the 1975 Helsinki conference, under the terms of which the post-war status quo must be preserved in Europe. Svirin also pointed out that the agreement on the principles of bilateral relations concluded between Estonia and Russia in 1991 stipulates that both parties respect one another's territorial integrity.

Svirin told BNS at the press conference that, if Estonia also in the future refuses to demarcate the land border, Russia "will be forced to do it unilaterally."

"Allow me to remind you that Estonia was the first to station its border guards on the present borderline in 1992," the Russian diplomat said. "The border between Estonia and Russia runs along its present line, and fruitless discussions about the issue may further strain the relations between our countries."

Vaino Reinart, head of the Estonian delegation for talks with Russia, announced that Estonia proposed during the 17th round of talks to discuss the border issue and the interpretation of the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty in the Hague Court.

"Regrettably, the Russian delegation rejected our proposal," Reinart said.

Svirin affirmed that Russia does not consider it necessary to take the border issue to the Hague Court. He said, however, that Estonia "has of course the right to approach the court."

Negotiators Comment

WS0203193494 Tallinn BNS in English 1640 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Tallinn, Mar 02, BNS—Estonia is considering changing the level of its delegation for negotiations with Russia and may even break off the talks because of Russia's unconstructive approach, Estonia's chief negotiator Ambassador Vaino Reinart said today at a press conference after the 17th round of talks.

The reason for this is the Russian delegation's announcement that the final deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia is still open and that the pullout continues according to a timetable approved in Moscow, which is known only to the Russian side.

Head of the Russian delegation, Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin said that Russia's promise to withdraw its troops by Aug. 31, made during the 15th round of talks in January, "is no longer the order of the day," since Estonia has failed to keep its earlier promises. [passage omitted]

Estonia's top negotiator said the government plans soon to address the issue of the future of the talks.

Svirin said Estonia's intention to change the level of the delegation or to break off the talks will cause "certain tensions" in Estonian-Russian relations.

"On March 1 we informed Estonia of the changes in the make-up of our delegation," the Russian diplomat said. "We included several deputy ministers in it, which shows our interest in the negotiations."

In the 17th round of talks Estonia again asked Russia to present a list of Russian citizens residing in Estonia. The proposal, regrettably, met with a refusal, Reinart said.

No progress was made on the border issue. The parties only agreed that the working groups on border and humanitarian issues would meet before the next round of talks to discuss citizenship problems. An agreement in principle was reached also on reviving a joint working group to address the issue of a juridical evaluation of Russia's annexation of Estonia in 1940.

The parties did not set a date for the next round of negotiations.

Russians Halt Troop Pullout

LD0203213094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 2 Mar 94

[from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation at the talks with Estonia, announced today that the withdrawal of Russian troops from that republic has been halted after Estonia refused to guarantee the rights of retired Russian servicemen.

Withdrawal Linked With Former Servicemen

LD0203130794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Now a little about the Estonian-Russian talks. On the first day of the 17th round of Estonian-Russian talks yesterday [1 March], Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin, the leader of the Russian delegation, continued to link the withdrawal of 2,600 Russian servicemen from Estonia with social guarantees for [Russian] military pensioners [living in Estonia]. Svirin told Estonian Television yesterday that Russia is prepared to present a schedule for troop withdrawal if Estonia agrees to sign an agreement concerning social guarantees for military pensioners and their family members.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry says in its statement today that such action is in conflict with UN and CSCE documents according to which Russia has taken upon herself the obligation of withdrawing her troops from Estonia unconditionally. Ambassador Vaino Reinart, the Estonian delegation leader, regrets that Russia wants to initial the two agreements as a single package. The Estonian delegation requested also an explanation for the statement made on 28 February by Aleksandr Udaltsev, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official, on the first day of the talks. According to the statement, it is too soon to talk about the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia by 31 August of the current year. According to the Russian delegation, Udaltsev's position does not coincide with the official Russian position.

Ministry Links Troops, Local Crime

LD0203135494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Ministry finds that the 2,600 Russian servicemen deployed in Estonia act as a destabilizing force. Their discipline is weak and they have links with both the illegal arms trade and other crime. The Foreign Ministry statement says that the Estonian police are investigating several cases of Russian servicemen selling their arms to criminals locally. The Estonian police confiscated 500 kilograms of a powerful explosive substance from a Russian junior officer in February 1993. It would have been sufficient to blow up the World Trade Center in New York. At the same location the police confiscated 12,000 cartridges that were intended for sale.

Two months ago the police found a train standing near the [training] nuclear reactor at Paldiski [Russian naval base near Tallinn], which had been unguarded since November. There were numerous anti-tank shells in its 22 cars. Local people had already succeeded in emptying several of the wagons and had sold their booty. According to the Foreign Ministry, it is assumed that the weapons are now held by criminals, BNS [Baltic News Service] notes.

Russia Reneges on 31 Aug Withdrawal

LD0203181194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Russia has stated that the proposal that its troops be withdrawn from Estonia by 31 August has become redundant and that the troop withdrawal (?will continue) according to a timetable to be determined by the Russian side. Vasilii Svirin, leader of the Russian delegation [at 17th round of Estonian-Russian talks], made a statement to this effect at a news conference today. Viewing the outcome of yet another round of talks between Estonia and Russia, Svirin said that they satisfy neither the Russian nor the Estonian side. For the Russian side the first priority is the situation of its compatriots in Estonia, but these issues were practically not even discussed because of the Estonian side's position.

Explaining the change of view on the date for the withdrawal that was previously put forward by the Russian side, the Russian delegation leader said that this results from statements by the Estonian side (?which is now avoiding putting this in writing). Svirin mentioned the readiness to finance the building of housing for Russian servicemen, the giving up of mutual compensation, and the agreement ensuring social guarantees for retired Russian servicemen.

Speaking about the border between Estonia and Russia, Svirin said that the issue is clear for Russia: the border is where it runs at present. Estonia, however, is making territorial claims on Russia, Svirin claimed. Russia does not see it as possible to resolve the border issue through an international court. If the Estonian side does not wish to set down markers along the border Russia will do so unilaterally, Svirin added. At the same time Svirin stated that the Russian side intends to continue the talks in order to achieve friendly and [word indistinct] cooperation and mutual understanding.

Commenting on the statement made by the leader of the Russian Federation's delegation at the news conference, Estonian delegation leader Vaino Reinart said that the Estonian side does not wish to break off the talks, either. The statement read out just now may, however, lead to the talks being broken off and Estonia changing her delegation [words indistinct]. Reinart noted that the Russian side did not agree to hand over to the Estonian side a list of Russian citizens living in Estonia, making a reference to [words indistinct]. Estonia proposed that on the subject of the Estonian-Russian border the International Court in The Hague should be approached. The Russian delegation rejected the proposal unambiguously, said Reinart. He went on to state that the Estonian Government is due to discuss the [word indistinct] outcome of the 17th round of talks in the near future.

Total Collapse of Negotiations

LD0203184394 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1645 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Negotiations between Estonia and Russia on the withdrawal of Russian troops have collapsed. This information was given by the Estonian foreign minister on his visit to Stockholm.

[Begin recording—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik, in English] The negotiations ended kind of in a, in a very smashing way, I mean they were not interrupted at the moment but there was a, there was a complete collapse. [end recording]

[Reporter] The negotiations collapsed totally, crash and bang, it was not just an interruption but instead the whole basis of the negotiations collapsed. This was said by Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik at a news conference a little while ago at the Swedish Foreign Ministry where he has today had negotiations with Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas.

The collapse in the talks on the Russian withdrawal came as a surprise; when the latest round started just outside Tallinn yesterday, nothing pointed toward that. The Estonian foreign minister expressed great disappointment today. The collapse is especially sad because we were more or less ready with an agreement that the last Russian troops—there are currently only about 2,600 men—will be withdrawn by 31 August this year at the latest, Juri Luik said. He added that the Estonian government will now consult their partners in the west, including the Scandinavian governments.

On behalf of the Swedish Government, Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas deeply deplored what has happened now.

[Begin af Ugglas recording] I am reacting very strongly, Swedish opinion is quite clear: International law requires that Russia withdraw its troops from both Estonia and Latvia. [end recording]

Further on Reasons for Breakdown

LD0203192894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn March 2 TASS—Estonia intends to take its territorial dispute with Russia to International Court of Justice in The Hague, said Vaino Reinart, head of the Estonian negotiating team to talks with Russia, the 17th round of which ended in Tallinn. In his words, "regarding the 1920 Tartu peace treaty as the only basis of its relations with Russia, Estonia insists that part of the present Leningrad and Pskov regions be given back to it".

Commenting on the results of the talks, Russian negotiating chief Vasilii Svirin told reporters that his country was above all guided by the principle of inviolability of frontiers sealed by the Concluding Act of the 1975 Helsinki Conference.

As for the progress of Russian-Estonian talks on the whole, the heads of the two negotiating teams expressed dissatisfaction about their results. The agreement on troop withdrawal was never signed. The Russian side demands that security guarantees for military pensioners and members of their families form part of this agreement, while Estonia agrees to discuss this issue only upon presentation of a schedule for pulling out the 2,600 Russian troops still staying on Estonian territory.

Apart from this, Svirin noted, the Russian delegation to the talks is concerned over Estonia's deviation from earlier signed agreements on mutual claims. Under these agreements, Russia is to transfer to the Baltic state 4,900 military installations on its territory, and Estonia is to refrain from any claims for ecological damage it incurred. Furthermore, Estonia is to allocate 23 million dollars for accommodating Russian servicemen leaving the republic.

Following Estonia's departure from these agreements, Svirin said, Russia will be forced to withdraw the remaining troops according to a schedule set by it unilaterally. This means that Russia may go back on the earlier fixed deadline for troop pullout, August 31, 1994. And by accusing Russia of "not a constructive stand", the Estonian side dragging out negotiations or, in Reinart's words, upgrades their level.

Foreign Minister Visits Sweden at Counterpart's Request

WS0203195394 Tallinn BNS in English 1118 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 02, BNS—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik is today on an official visit to Sweden at Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas' invitation.

Juri Arusoo, Foreign Ministry press secretary, told BNS that Luik is scheduled to meet with Ugglas and speak at the Swedish Foreign Policy Institute on Baltic security. Arusoo said Luik will probably meet also with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt.

Commission Head on Strained Relations With Russia

WS0203210894 Tallinn BNS in English 2004 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tartu, Estonia, Mar 02, BNS—The relations between Estonia and Russia are likely to become even more strained, since nothing good can be expected from the present make-up of the Russian parliament, Vello Saatpalu, head of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission, said at a press conference in Tartu today.

Saatpalu said he would have been surprised if Russia had stuck to its earlier promise to withdraw the troops from Estonia by Aug. 31.

"I'm aware that nobody can come up with solutions to the problems of the troop withdrawal," he said.

Commenting on the debates about the 1920 Tartu Peace Treaty, Saatpalu said he doesn't know any force "that would make Russia recognize the validity of the treaty."

"Estonia has two options to get back five percent of its territory: it can either declare war on Russia or seek out political forces that would make clear to Russia the advantages of returning Estonian lands it currently holds," Saatpalu said.

The commission chairman sees two possible solutions also to the problem of Russian military pensioners: they can be either deported or convinced of the profitability of returning to Russia. Saatpalu considers it unlikely, however, that any of the non-Estonians will voluntarily leave Estonia.

"It may be different if they get paid for it," he said.

Saatpalu voiced his conviction that Russia will not achieve its objectives in issues related to the pensioned military.

"Since Estonian laws stipulate that they must leave, any compromises on this issue are ruled out," he maintained.

Saatpalu announced that members of the foreign affairs commissions of the Russian State Duma and the Estonian parliament will get together in the first half of the year.

Latvia

Energy Restored to Skrunda Radar Station

LD0203184994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759
GMT 2 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga March 2 TASS—Energy supplies to the Russian radar station in Skrunda, Latvia, resumed on Wednesday, two days after an explosion damaged one of the supports of the power line feeding the station with electricity.

Police have found the remains of the explosive which have been sent for examination. This proves preliminary conclusions of the investigating commission that the action had been planned in advance. Police are still questioning local residents. The power line security has been tightened.

The explosion occurred on the day when Russian and Latvian delegations were supposed to resume their talks. Observers believe that this is not an incidental coincidence.

Skrunda Incident Termed Advantageous to Russia

LD0203143794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1300 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] At a session of the Saeima foreign affairs commission today, Martins Virsis, the parliamentary secretary at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the head of the Latvian delegation for talks with Russia, viewed the blowing up of a high-tension power line near Skrunda as an incident of a political nature, stressing its advantage to Russia. As Virsis said, incidents of this kind are to the benefit of Russia to justify to the world and especially the United States its military interests in Latvia. In addition, Virsis expressed indignation at the performance of the Latvian security service, which did not provide government departments with the necessary information immediately after the incident.

Power was reconnected to the damaged high-tension line after the completion of restoration work at 2104 yesterday.

Skrunda Residents Protest Plan To Keep Station

WS0203152894 Riga DIENA in Latvian 17 Feb 94
pp 1, 8

[Article by Liga Laizane: "Inhabitants of Skrunda Do Not Want Radar Station To Operate for Four More Years"]

[Excerpts] Riga, 16 Feb—Authorities of the villages situated in the area of the Skrunda radar station are dissatisfied with the government's intention to sign an agreement with Russia whereby the station will continue operation for another four years, followed by an additional 18 months to dismantle the installation. Today, at a session of the people's deputies in the House of Culture in Skrunda, in which local inhabitants took part, a decision was made to ask the Latvian Government to ensure that the functioning of the radar base be ended at the same time as the foreign army withdrawal is completed.

This decision was accepted notwithstanding the explanations of Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs, leader of the Latvia's Way Faction Andreys Panteleyevs, or the Minister for Special Tasks Edvins Inkens, who tried to persuade the citizens that Latvia would only gain if the agreement was signed and there would be a precise time set for the radar station to cease operations.

A. Panteleyevs said that if the agreement would meet the requirements of the Latvian Government, it would contain a point stating that the facility should be dismantled immediately after the agreement is concluded. The old radar has gone out of date and it is not foreseen that it could be operated for more than four years. During this period, everything should be done to make Russia invest money in building a radar station in Baranoviche, in Belarus.

V. Birkavs emphasized in his turn, that by signing this agreement Latvia could integrate quicker into Europe. He said advantage should be taken of the support of European international organizations—the prime minister mentioned in particular the friendly attitude toward Latvia of the leaders of the Western European Union—to conclude the agreement with Russia. V. Birkavs also reported what he had learned during his visit to the United States—there is great interest concerning the Skrunda radar base, yet the leaders of foreign countries usually do not give concrete advice; such advice must be found by the Latvian Government itself.

E. Inkens explained that the agreement would make it possible to more effectively control the functioning of the radar station. Currently, there is no such possibility to do this. Answering questions from the citizens gathered, V. Birkavs reported that Denmark has promised to send concrete material aid as well as its experts to control the environmental situation in Skrunda. [passage omitted]

Specifying the facts due to which the Skrunda station ought to be closed immediately, in addition to those already known—such as a greater instance of diseases among inhabitants than anywhere else, especially children, the negative influence upon the environment, and pollution—the inspector for environment protection Igo Midrian also mentioned the great amount of freon which is used in the station's cold storage plants. This could create complications for Latvia when it ratifies the Montreal convention on ozone protection. Therefore, the agreement should foresee a clause stating that freon used by the radar station be put on the account of Russia.

The inhabitants also expressed their dissatisfaction concerning the amount of compensation—\$2 million. According to them, the sum is too small. They also expressed a view that it is necessary to establish a special local medical center, because according to the head doctor at Skrunda hospital, Martins Abolins, diseases in this region have a more serious nature than in other areas of Latvia. V. Birkavs made a promise that the entire amount of the obtained compensation will be used to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the area effected by the radar station. He also allowed for the possibility that inhabitants who feel that their health is endangered be provided with a place to live outside of the area for the next four years.

The operation of the Skrunda radar station is being felt in the area of Skrunda, as well as in the villages of Ranki, Laida, Rudbarzi, Snepele, Nkraca, and Turlava, including Kuldiga, which has 40,000 inhabitants.

Top Negotiator on Russian Withdrawal, Skrunda *WS0203183094 Riga DIENA in Latvian 19 Feb 94 p 2*

[Interview with Martins Virsis, parliamentary secretary of the Latvian Foreign Affairs Ministry and chief negotiator on Russian troop withdrawal, by Aivars Ozolins; place and date not given: "We Have No Wish To Prolong It"—]

[Excerpts] [Ozolins] In this round of negotiations, neither the final agreement nor any other documents were initialed or signed, as was foreseen by both Russia and Latvia. What were the reasons for this?

[Virsis] We could not manage to find a common language on some principal positions. First, regarding payments, second—the social security of Russian Army pensioners.

I would not say that the situation is tragic or dramatic. To move forward on these issues, both sides must change their instructions and positions.

[Ozolins] Is it a question of extending their powers?

[Virsis] Either extending them or providing different instructions. It does not concern us so much as it does the Russians; still, the Russians might think quite the opposite.

[Ozolins] Does it mean that the Russian delegation is not authorized to agree with the change in the amount of the payment?

[Virsis] It is apparent that [Russian chief negotiator] Zotov does not have such power. Naturally the way in which he explains it all—why he can not, what is the balance of payments, that there is \$4.5 billion left over—this is their interpretation. Everybody has a right to express their opinion, but in this concrete situation, this is not a correct proposal. It is very difficult for us to permit the continued operation of the Skrunda radar station for another four years, and what we are talking about is not rent for the land, but direct usage of this facility.

[Ozolins] In an interview with SM-SEGODNIA [as published], Zotov maintains that this agreement is probably more necessary for Latvia than for Russia, and that Russia is actually not interested in signing it any more. Could you comment on this?

[Virsis] He did not say this to me. One may say different things when speaking to journalists, and something else when speaking officially. If this is the official position of Russia, then there would really be no point in continuing our talks.

[Ozolins] In Zotov's view, much more important is the problem of ensuring the social security of retired military personnel.

[Virsis] I think there are no grounds for such a linking of issues—either Skrunda or military pensioners.

Such an attitude on the part of Russia has developed historically. Since the beginning of the negotiations, Russia has consistently maintained these demands for the two agreements—on social security of military personnel, and social security of war pensioners. At first, they were part of the main agreement. Later, to move forward with the main agreement, they were separated.

From this point of view, they are connected with the process of military withdrawal, however they can by no means be connected with Skrunda.

[Ozolins] What kind of a compromise would Latvia be inclined to accept concerning the military pensioners? What are Latvia's demands?

[Virsis] Regarding military pensioners who have permanent registration and who therefore are living as permanent residents, it is a question of their choice—whether they wish to become Latvian citizens and, in this case, they will have to go through the respective procedure foreseen by Latvian legislation, or if they wish something else. In the latter case, it will be a matter of Latvian laws concerning the stay of foreigners or stateless persons. The problem of military personnel who were retired later or arranged their stay during the last two years, will be more complicated.

[Ozolins] Is the number of these people known?

[Virsis] Different numbers are given. The Northwestern Army Group has the most precise information. We can speak about 420 people who have stayed here since 28 January 1992, when Russia took the Soviet Army under its jurisdiction. During this period, 2,800 were demobilized. At the same time, 2,500 officers left Latvia—but I do not know how many of them were those who were demobilized. If these figures are true, then the above mentioned figure of 420 might be correct. The only question is—whether the 2,500 people included those who were demobilized after 28 January 1992, because there is a possibility that those who were demobilized earlier could also leave.

[Ozolins] Can we say that Russian foreign policy towards the Baltic states has undergone a change, taking into account, for instance, the statements made by Zotov in the beginning of February in IZVESTIYA, in which he expressed a much more aggressive attitude towards the Baltic states, using the opportunity of the incident between Rucs and the generals.

[Virsis] In my opinion, the general attitude, since September 1991, though not expressed clearly, arises from the regret that the Baltic states are gone. This attitude has always existed, but it is being more and more stressed, defined, and specified recently, the accents are emphasized more clearly and are becoming more comprehensive for us, as well as for the Russian people and the Western world.

[Ozolins] Do you think that these accents could become stronger and turn into a definite policy?

[Virsis] It is difficult to predict it, but it is possible that things will develop that way.

[Ozolins] Do you find the present interest in the security of the Baltic region shown by the Western countries short-lived? As soon as the agreement is concluded, the interest will die and we shall be left again, eye-to-eye with Russia.

[Virsis] It is provided by us in the agreement that regarding Skrunda, first of all, the CSCE will be the institution to oversee its fulfillment. This means control, inspection, sometimes extra inspections if necessary. We should not think that we will be left alone. Of course, it was clear from the beginning that in terms of security guarantees from Western countries, we could expect such guarantees from none of them, regardless of how powerful they are. Besides, the bigger the distance from that country to the one that is seeking guarantees, the more difficult the realization of the guarantees would be. The best example would be Great Britain and Poland in September 1939. There were guarantees, but they could not be fulfilled. Therefore the question now does not concern direct guarantees, but the political "texture" which is being "woven" right now and in which elements of our security are also designed. It is very delicate as yet, but it can be developed further.

It may seem paradoxical, but if not for the complicated situation with Skrunda...

[Ozolins] There would be less interest in us?

[Virsis] These were not my words exactly. Nevertheless, this could be one of reasons why the global powers and NATO—and not only NATO—should watch north-eastern Europe more intensively. I do not want to single out Latvia, because it also applies to Estonia and Lithuania, as well as to our Scandinavian friends. Therefore, I shall cite Mao, who taught us that some value can be gained even from an unhappy situation.

[Ozolins] The supervision of CSCE is very important, but most probably the attitude of the global powers will be crucial. Do you think they will maintain their interest for all four years and eighteen months?

[Virsis] I hope very much that their interest will not be the same as it is now. At present, we see them in a very "pressed" situation. Many problems have yet to be resolved. In my opinion, the United States and the EC are interested in our settling the agreement with Russia, because it will allow us to integrate more quickly in Europe. This is really the only normal way to maintain their interest in security issues. One has to remember that the EC is not entirely a political or economic organization.

This is simply a very tense and painful period in our relations with Russia. At the same time, the EC has already worked out some conditions of our movement toward integration, but surely they would be more definite and positive if our relations with Russia were regulated by an agreement.

[Ozolins] Do foresee a possibility—at least theoretically—that we could be accepted to NATO even with the Skrunda radar station?

[Virsis] No. Of course this is only my personal view. It may turn out another way.

[Ozolins] So at least six years must pass before we will be able to speak seriously about joining this organization?

[Virsis] There are also other political institutions for security. First of all, the Western European Union, to which Latvia and other Baltic and East European states belong as members of its consultative forum, but we can become associated members. It is a small but very heavy "brick." It is not NATO, but very near it. [passage omitted]

[Ozolins] When could the agreement with Russia be signed?

[Virsis] [passage omitted] Speaking about Latvia's attitude, we are not the ones that are in the mood to prolong it.

[Ozolins] But this is just what Zotov accuses—that we are dragging our feet.

[Virsis] The interpretations of Mr. Zotov are also meaningful. He is a professional diplomat. I am a professional historian. I am fixing dates and facts, he interprets them.

Discharged Officers Reportedly Still in Latvia

LD0203134694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Approximately 200 Russian Army units have been disbanded on Latvian territory over the last year. Some of the discharged officers have left for Russia, but others have remained in Latvia. The Command of the Northwestern Group of Russian Forces does not provide the Latvian Bureau for Monitoring the Withdrawal of the Russian Army with information about officers who, after the disbandment of military units, have remained in Latvia. Ilgonis Upmalis, the head of the bureau, reports.

The Bureau for Monitoring the Withdrawal of the Russian Army has instructed local governments to collect information about officers of the disbanded military units, who were discharged in Latvia. However, this is a very long and labor-consuming process. This issue is not being considered at the Latvian-Russian interstate talks on troop withdrawal either.

Russians Reject ITAR-TASS Report on Beaten

WS0203200694 Tallinn BNS in English 1412 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 02, BNS—No heavily beaten up Russian soldiers were taken to Riga war hospital in February or March this year, Igors Golins, Russian West-East army unit's press center head, told BNS denying the agency ITAR-TASS information published Tuesday [1 March] in newspaper PANORAMA LATVIJI.

ITAR-TASS declares that the North-West army unit leadership announced about the case of beaten up Russian soldiers to Latvian Foreign Ministry but Golins denies it. Ivars Embrekts, Latvian Foreign Ministry press secretary also affirmed that the ministry has received no announcements from North-West army unit's leadership.

North-West army unit's medical center chief informed Golin that no journalists have spoken neither with the

leadership of medical center nor soldiers undergoing treatment at Riga war hospital.

Golin said he has no idea where the wrong information came from and noted that the leadership of North-West army unit will officially deny it in the near future.

Lithuania

Investigation Promised of Arrest Failure

WS0203200494 Tallinn BNS in English 1118 GMT
2 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 02, BNS—The Lithuanian prosecutor's office intends to carry out "a thorough investigation" of the failed arrest of Vitali Yegorov, who is accused of inspiring anti-state activities in the Lithuanian seaport of Klaipeda during the 1991 Soviet coup.

Lithuanian authorities planned to arrest Yegorov in his Klaipeda apartment but the suspect was reportedly warned about the operation and managed to slip away.

The prosecutor's office said the failed operation was carried out by the Lithuanian National Security Service.

Kestutis Betingis, head of the State Crimes Department, told the RESPUBLIKA newspaper that he will officially demand to dismiss some employees of the service.

Betingis supposes that Yegorov may have been either arrested on Friday [25 February] and then released, or was informed about the operation in advance.

The official said this was "an open betrayal" or simply unsuccessful work, but "somebody did this on purpose."

Prosecutor General Arturas Paulauskas confirmed to RESPUBLIKA that the head of the security service, Jurgis Jurgelis, telephoned him several times before the operation and tried to convince the prosecutor not to arrest Yegorov. Jurgelis reportedly said "how will we look politically" if a former Soviet serviceman is arrested.

Jurgelis is on sick-leave since Monday, his secretary said.

In 1991, Colonel Yegorov headed the military-political section of the Soviet coast guard division stationed in Klaipeda. The prosecutor's office found evidence that he initiated unlawful actions of the Soviet military during the 1991 coup.